

Arthur G. Hall

18 Bouverie St. E.C.

THE

# Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXV.—NEW SERIES, No. 1015.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1865.

PRICE { UNSTAMPED .. 5d.  
{ STAMPED ..... 6d.

## SEVENTH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE LIBERATION OF RELIGION FROM

### STATE PATRONAGE AND CONTROL

The CONFERENCE will be held on TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY, the 2nd and 3rd of May, at FREEMASON'S HALL, LONDON. It will be composed of Delegates appointed by—(1), Local Committees of the Society, or, in the absence of such Committees, by the Subscribers in any place (except the metropolis); (2), by Meetings publicly called; (3), by Public Bodies; and (4), by the Signatures of not fewer than Twenty-five Persons in any place or district.

It is not necessary that either the Delegates to the Conference, or the parties appointing them, shall have been previously connected with the Society; the only qualification required being an implied concurrence in the Society's objects, and in the propriety of organised effort to obtain for them Legislative sanction.

Forms for the Appointment of Delegates, and other information, may be had of the undersigned,

J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, Secretary.

2, Serjeant's-inn, Fleet-street, London.

## BAPTIST ANNIVERSARIES.

The Committee for providing hospitalities for Ministerial Visitors to the Baptist Anniversaries will be glad to receive early information from gentlemen intending to be present.

Applications cannot be received later than Saturday, April 15th.

S. M. PETO, Bart., Treasurer.

JAMES H. MILLARD, B.A., JOHN E. TRESIDDER, } Secretaries.

ALFRED T. BOWSER,

Baptist Library, 33, Moorgate-street,

March 30th, 1865.

All letters to be addressed to Mr. J. E. Tresidder, at the Mission House.

## LONDON CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

WESTERN DISTRICT UNION.

At a CONFERENCE of Ministers, Deacons, and other Office-bearers of the Congregational Churches, in PARK CHAPEL SCHOOLROOM, CAMDEN-TOWN, TUESDAY, April 4th, 1865, called to consider a proposal for the formation of a Western District Association, Mr. Samuel Morley in the chair.

It was moved by Rev. J. C. GALLAWAY, M.A., seconded by JOSIAS ALEXANDER, Esq., and resolved,—

1. "That it is desirable to form an Association of the Congregational Churches of the Western Districts of London, with a view to the development of church life and aggressive efforts on the outlying population."

Moved by Rev. J. C. HARRISON, seconded by JAMES TOWNLEY, Esq., and resolved,—

2. "That the constitution shall be a modification of the general constitution of the London Congregational Association, so as to adapt it to local circumstances—the objects being the promotion of fraternal fellowship among the Associated Churches, the calling forth of their separate and united efforts for the diffusion of Christian truth, and the establishment of worship in connection with Congregational principles among the neglected population of the Metropolis, so as to promote to the greatest possible extent the Evangelisation of London; and that a Committee be now appointed to complete the organisation, arrange for a public meeting to be held in Craven Chapel in May to inaugurate the institution, and otherwise carry these resolutions into effect."

SAMUEL MORLEY, Chairman.

London, April 5, 1865.

## NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SEVEN SISTERS-ROAD, UPPER HOLLOWAY.

The NEW IRON CHURCH will be OPENED on the Morning of GOOD FRIDAY, April 14, when a SERMON will be preached by the Rev. A. RALEIGH, D.D.

The Rev. Dr. EDMOND and the Rev. F. TUCKER, B.A., will conduct the devotional parts of the Service, which will commence at Eleven o'clock. The attendance of persons interested in Church Extension is earnestly invited. A Collection will be made on behalf of the Building Fund.

On SUNDAY, April 16, the Rev. S. M'ALL, Principal of Hackney College, will preach in the Morning, and the Rev. J. in the Evening.

On SUNDAY, April 23, the Rev. E. T. BROMFIELD, Minister of the New Church, will preach Morning and Evening.

## SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE SOCIETY.

The ANNUAL MEETING in EXTER HALL will be held on WEDNESDAY EVENING, the 3rd May.

Sir FRANCIS CROSSLEY, Bart., M.P., will take the Chair at Seven o'clock.

Full particulars will be given in future advertisements.

Office of the Society, 7, Adam-street, W.C.

April 4, 1865.

TO WIDOWS of BAPTIST MINISTERS  
and MISSIONARIES.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,  
that the ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION of PROFITS arising  
from the SALE of PSALMS and HYMNS, will take place in  
APRIL.

All applicants are desired to apply in writing on or before the 10th of April to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. E. Tresidder, 1, Chatham-place, Walworth-road, London.

## NEW ZEALAND—HOW TO GET THERE.

The ALBERTLAND ASSOCIATION having arranged for a large party to sail in the magnificent Clipper KING OF ITALY, a 1,270 ton burthen, on the 21st of May next, early application should be made to Samuel Braine, Manager, 8, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C.; or by letter to 73, Edmund-street, Birmingham.

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### MIDLAND COUNTIES PROPRIETARY SCHOOL COMPANY (LIMITED).

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The NEXT TERM will COMMENCE on the 5th April. Applications for admission should be addressed to the Head Master, who will supply any information that may be required.

#### TERMS:

For Pupils entering under 14 years of age, 40 guineas.

For Pupils entering above 14 years of age, 50 guineas.

Tettenhall is well known as a most healthy and picturesque village, quite out of the mining district, and within three miles of the railway-stations at Wolverhampton.

## SUNDAY-SCHOOLS ON THE CONTINENT.

## SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION.

President: The Hon. ARTHUR F. KINNAIRD, M.P.

Treasurer: Mr. ALDERMAN CHALLIS.

The Sunday-school system, so universally adopted, and with such beneficial results, in this country and North America, is comparatively unknown on the continent of Europe, with the exception of some portions of France.

Favourable opportunities having recently been presented for promoting the establishment of Sunday-schools in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, &c., and earnest appeals for assistance having been received from friends in these countries, the Committee of the Sunday school Union are desirous of extending their operations, so as to place within reach of the youthful population there the inestimable advantages of early instruction in Bible truths.

The means contemplated are the employment of suitable Sunday-school Missionary Agents, who would introduce the English system to the favourable notice of Christian churches, and, with their co-operation, seek to establish Sunday-schools where at present unknown, and minister to the wants of those already in existence; the preparation of suitable books for class instruction and school purposes generally; the publication of periodical literature for teachers and scholars; grants in aid of the erection of school premises, payment of rent, and such other measures as may be desirable in accordance with local circumstances.

Employment can at once be found for nearly twenty travelling agents, and there is a very urgent need for immediate supplies of school books.

The present income of the Sunday-school Union being barely adequate to meet the expense of home operations, the Committee appeal to those interested in the religious education of the young, and in the spread of Sunday-schools upon the continent, for funds to carry on this important work.

W. H. WATSON, W. GROSER, } Honorary  
A. BENHAM, } Secretaries.  
F. J. HARTLEY,

Contributions will be thankfully acknowledged by Mr. A. Benham, Finance Secretary, 56, Old Bailey, London, E.C., or may be paid at the Union Bank of London, Temple Bar Branch, for "The Sunday-school Union Continental Fund."

INCREASE of INCOME without interference  
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GENTLEMEN of LIMITED MEANS whose habits or pursuits  
offer them opportunities of extended personal intercourse with  
others may **LARGELY INCREASE** their INCOMES by  
habitually bringing under the notice of their connections the  
claims of LIFE ASSURANCE (either as public or private  
agents), in connection with an established office, affording  
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## CLERICAL.—A GENTLEMAN of EDUCATION

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500, New Oxford-street, London, W.C.

March 15th, 1864.

Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson,

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Their progress in stitching, tucking, and quilting, after a few lessons has been quite remarkable, eliciting marked approbation from those who have witnessed it. I trust that the use of your Machine will be accepted, not only for the benefit of the poorer class of blind persons, but for the amusement of those more advantageously circumstanced.

Accept my earnest thanks for all the assistance we have received from you in this early stage of our efforts, and for your liberal donation.

I am Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

EDWARD MOORE.

Instruction gratis to every purchaser. Illustrated prospectus gratis and post-free.

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BETTER, STRONGER, AND HANDSOMER WORK, WITH  
LESS TROUBLE, THAN ANY OTHER.

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WANTED, for the above Company, respectable Middle-aged MARRIED MEN, as SUPERINTENDENTS for UNREPRESENTED DISTRICTS in England, Scotland, and Wales. The whole of their time to be devoted to the Business. Remuneration by Salary and Commission.

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EDWIN YELLAND, Manager.

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Apply, by letter, to A. Z., "Nonconformist" Office,

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"NONCONFORMIST" Newspaper, from 1851 to 1864.

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The education is sound, practical, and commercial; with or without French, Piano, Surveying, &c.

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Cranford Hall School is on the Bath-road, twelve miles from Hyde-park Corner, and near the Hounslow, Feltham, Southall, and West Drayton Stations, at either of which Mr. Verney's conveyance meets Parents and Pupils.

An APPRENTICE WANTED on Easy Terms.

1, PARAGON, BLACKHEATH, S.E. THE Misses HADLEY beg to announce that they continue to RECEIVE FIFTEEN YOUNG LADIES for the purpose of EDUCATION.

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Reference is kindly permitted to W. Smith, Esq., LL.D., Avenue-road, Regent's park; Rev. J. Beazley, Blackheath; Rev. R. H. Marten, B.A., Lee, Kent; Rev. J. C. Galloway, A.M., Kilburn; Rev. W. Cuthbertson, B.A., Bishops Stortford; Rev. W. H. Dyer, Bath.

## HURST COURT, ORE, HASTINGS.

The Rev. MARTIN REED, LL.D., RECEIVES PUPILS between the ages of Eleven and Eighteen; and has also a Preparatory Class for little boys between Six and Eleven years of age.

Hurst Court stands on one of the finest elevations in England; and, in building expressly for a school, private bedrooms have been substituted for large dormitories.

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References as usual. Prospectuses on application.

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Mr. JOHN D. BUCK, B.A., Principal. Situation elevated and healthy, near the Railway Station.

Education, Commercial and Classical, adapted to the Middle-Class Examinations.

A Preparatory Department for Younger Pupils.

Prospectuses forwarded on application.

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1, Granville-square, Wharton-street, King's-cross-road. "I have been in the habit of travelling in England and America, but never felt more satisfied than I have done while staying at Mrs. Bernard's Hotel. It is quite a home."—Mr. E. B. Spence, Darlington.

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37, QUEEN'S-SQUARE, BLOOMSBURY, W.C. BEDS, from 1s. 6d.; PLAIN BREAKFAST or TEA, 1s. The above house is well and centrally situated. There is a spacious Coffee-room overlooking the Square: it is within five minutes' walk of Holborn, and near the Inns of Court, British Museum, St. Paul's, &c.; and admirably suited for Parties, either on pleasure or business.

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DONATIONS of SUBSCRIPTIONS will be most thankfully received. Bankers—Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, and Co., Lombard-street.

GEORGE BURT, F.R.C.S., Hon. Secretary,

ALFRED S. RICHARDS, Secretary.

## COLMAN'S GENUINE MUSTARD.

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February, 1865.

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Date of Policy.	Age.	Sum Assured.	Original Premium.	Premium now Payable.	Reduction per Cent.
October, 1836	49	1,000	43 11 8	0 7 10	99
March, 1840	48	200	8 10 4	1 19 4	77
January, 1839	36	1,000	29 10 0	10 12 8	64
December, 1850	58	2,000	126 0 0	64 6 8	49
January, 1852	35	500	14 11 8	9 2 8	37
January, 1859	49	3,000	132 0 0	98 7 10	25

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April, 1836 ..	54	1,000	52 0 0	8 3 8
August, 1836 ..	56	500	29 3 4	9 1 3
August, 1837 ..	60	2,000	135 8 4	75 6 8
March, 1842 ..	61	500	32 19 3	1 17 4

Amount of Claims Paid .. .. .. 1,611,165 5 3

Gross Annual Income .. .. .. 388,791 18 7

Accumulated Fund .. .. .. 2,420,953 14 0

Members whose premiums fall due on the 1st APRIL are reminded that the same must be paid within thirty days from that date.

The prospectus and every information may be had on application.

March 25, 1865.

GEORGE MORRIS, Secretary.

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Is prepared to entertain applications for Agency Appointments

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The Royal has always been conspicuous for its liberality and

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Its Annual Income is now over .. .. .. £600,000

And its Funds in hand exceed .. .. .. £1,000,000

THE

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"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT, AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXV.—NEW SERIES, No. 1015.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1865.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

COMING OF AGE.

In the first week of next month the Liberation Society will have completed the twenty-first year of its being and work. Few, perhaps, who witnessed its birth expected to witness also its majority. Some of its earliest and heartiest friends have passed into that higher sphere of activity in which controversy ceases, and where there is no need of disentangling the spiritual from the secular. A few of its sponsors have changed their views and feelings. But of the larger number we think it may be affirmed with confidence that they have stood by the organisation throughout its career with undiminished attachment, trust, and hope, and that they will welcome its coming of age with a deeper and riper joy than even that with which they greeted its first introduction into the world. That it has done much towards the enlightenment and education of public opinion on the question which it took in hand, will be doubted by none who can compare the present with the past; and that it has developed into a formidable political power is sufficiently proved by the number of antagonistic institutions it has called into being. Its manhood is worthy of its infancy. Time, while it has done nothing as yet towards impairing its vitality, has imparted to it something of that practical wisdom which comes from experience, has tested and thereby strengthened its self-reliance, has given greater completeness to and mastery over its machinery, and has enabled it to acquire and unfold a character which places at its command a daily widening moral influence which, even more than success, constitutes a reserve force of incalculable importance to its future operations.

The seventh Triennial Conference of the Society's friends is close at hand. We need scarcely explain over again this unique provision of its constitution. The founders of the organisation, anxious to secure it against the possible growth of cliqueism, and to preserve it in closest harmony with the spirit of the age, decided upon inviting to its counsels every three years not merely its own avowed members, but any persons outside its circle of subscribers, who approve of its objects and concur in the propriety of using organised effort to give them legislative effect. Any number of delegates duly appointed to represent this exterior body may be present at and take part in the proceedings of the Conference, may help to choose its Executive Committee and Council, to pass judgment on its past acts, and to prescribe its future policy. It opens its doors to the friends of religious equality, whatever may have been their relation or want of relation to the organisation itself, and, on more than one occasion, not its policy alone, but its very structure, has been modified in conformity with the wishes of those who had previously stood entirely

aloof from its agency. At these Triennial Conferences, therefore, the Society comes in contact with other influences than those which prevail among its own supporters. The practical effect of the provision has been a periodical infusion of fresh life into the Association, and a closer adaptation of its movements to the special demands of the times.

There is, in the natural course of things, a more than ordinary interest awakened with regard to the forthcoming Conference, which, it is anticipated, will combine with the gravity of a council the joyousness of a celebration—tender and striking reminiscences with sturdy resolutions—the outpourings of gratitude with the courage and aspiration of faith. In all departments of moral work, it is found useful to take advantage of special seasons for reviving energies but too apt to lose something of their spring in protracted spells of labour. Twenty-one years constitute a long term during which to ply in one vocation, more particularly when the work is unceasingly uphill, and visible progress is but slow. They who have been banded together, some of them throughout the whole of that period, many of them for the greater part of it, all of them long enough to feel the strain of the enterprise to which they are committed, may well desire and determine that their coming together on this occasion shall result in something which shall give a more powerful impulse to themselves and to their work, and impart a more perceptible freshness of life to their undertaking, than have ever before been experienced. In fact, the stage at which the society has arrived suggests and enforces the propriety of collecting all its forces for a fresh start, and of so using the peculiar incidents of the present as to lay a basis for a still more hopeful future. The committee, we know, will do their part to turn the juncture to the best account, and, from all that we have learned, the friends of the Society will gladly second them in this most timely and desirable effort.

There are, moreover, some external circumstances which may, and we believe will, enhance the interest of the approaching Conference. There have been indications of no slight significance within the last six months that the main principles of the Society have been silently penetrating the minds of men whose intellectual culture is of the first order, and whose position gives them immense influence, sometimes social, sometimes political. The work will not much longer be left exclusively in the hands of those who first undertook it. Morning is beginning to dawn on the hill tops, and what during the past twenty-one years has been treated as the Utopian dream of fanatics bids fair to become in the next interval of the same duration the absorbing care of politicians and statesmen. We who have toiled all night long shall probably before many years witness a wondrous change in the relations of this question to the public mind. A little more "patient continuance in the well doing" will transfer the chief responsibilities of our enterprise to hands more competent to crystallise diffused and hitherto comparatively latent feeling into legislative acts, and to give to the doctrines we have been teaching an "outward and visible form." So much in reference to the remoter future. Nearer at hand stands the General Election, the issues of which may be largely modified by the spirit, tone, and success of the immediately preceding Conference. The present Parliament has signally failed us, and, with marked hostility, essayed to trample out our past work. It is now *in extremis*. Let us show it, before it departs hence and is no more, that it has neither cowed our spirits, nor altered our determination. Let its last days witness to the impotence of its spite—and as it passes off the stage let its members receive warning that they and we shall "meet again at Philippi."

In a word—the ensuing Conference should surpass all former ones in all those features which give to such assemblies a moral grandeur and a moral power. We are confident in our expecta-

tion that it will. All we ask of our friends is that they will give their hearts the rein on this occasion, for their hearts may be safely trusted. We shall be sorry to miss a single individual whom heretofore we have rejoiced to welcome to these gatherings. We shall regret it as well for their sakes as for the sake of the cause which we know to be dear to them. We look forward with intensest interest, and sanguine anticipations, to the occasion—and we devoutly trust that all who shall be present will carry away with them impressions which will help to strengthen them for a long season yet to come.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

It is remarkable that two religious magazines should call attention, at the same time, to a subject which for various reasons it is not always prudent, although it may be wise, to write about. For to write or speak of the apparent shortcomings of any "denomination" is to invite many attacks, and too often to make many enemies. It needs an abundance of amiability to bear with proper grace an exposure of work not done, and especially to bear a comparison with other apparently more successful and more rapid work. No one, however, is likely, we judge, to be offended by the paper in the *Christian Spectator* on the "Baptist Denomination," and in the *General Baptist Magazine* on the "Extension of the Denomination." They are papers proceeding from very different pens, but saying substantially the same thing; the first, written with a high appreciation of the history and work of the Baptist denomination, whose attention it invites to what is said to be the fact of a relative decline in the increase of the Baptist churches during the last fourteen or fifteen years. The writer doubts if this increase has been in anything like the proportion of either the Wesleyan or the Congregational bodies, and makes some general statements in support of this view. The remarks made, however, relate solely to church-building, which is very often, but not always, synonymous with church extension. Usually, there can be no doubt, the building of a new place of worship, even on an old site and for an old religious association, is a sign of an increase in the numbers, the zeal, and the power of that association. Thus it has been stated at a meeting of the London Congregational Chapel-building Society—and the statement is repeated in the article—that the Congregationalists have lately been building about twenty new places of worship in the metropolis and the twelve-mile Post-office zone every year; but when we consult the "Congregational Year-Book" we do not find that there has been anything like that increase in the number of new religious organisations. It may surprise some persons who have read this statement to be told that since the year 1851 the Congregational body have added only forty-six places of worship in this area, and that the number added since 1860 has been, not at the rate of twenty a-year, but only twelve altogether. These increases are not small, and we mention them simply to show the necessity of distinguishing between the edifice and the church which ordinarily worships within it.

Take next the Baptist denomination. It is stated that they have not built one-half the number of places of worship which the Congregationalists have built; but if we refer to the "Baptist Handbook" we find that since 1851 the Baptists have added seventy-one new churches or religious associations to the metropolis as against the Congregationalists' forty-six; and since 1860, twenty-two to the Congregationalists' twelve. In neither of these cases, however, can figures properly represent facts. Mr. Spurgeon's church, for instance, is not included in the above numbers, because it was founded as a religious society in the year 1719, yet, in its fullest meaning, it is a new society, and equals, as such, some ten ordinary

churches. It is impossible, in all cases, to say how far church-building indicates church extension, how far it is synonymous with chapel debts, how far church extension proceeds without church-building, and how far it is not extension, but division. It would seem that of late, in the metropolis, the Congregationalists have been eminent for building, and the Baptists for extension. In the next ten years these characteristics may be reversed. It is very difficult in either case to mark the actual increase or decline, or the relative cessation of either.

The author in the *General Baptist Magazine*, writing from within the denomination, is more sweeping in his charges than the friendly critic of the *Christian Spectator*. He accuses the denomination of "unwillingness," "sluggishness," and "inactivity," and remarks that the contrast between their work and that of some Methodist denominations is simply humiliating. "In," he says, "the Establishment or out of it, none so inactive as we—Papists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Independents, are all progressing; we only, as regards spreading the Gospel at home, are retrograding." This respects of course the General Baptists only; with regard to the other section, the opinion is expressed that they are in "a more promising condition."

We are naturally led from this back to the old question of Trust Deeds, concerning which two new words have just been said. The *Baptist Magazine*, in an article from the pen of Mr. S. R. Pattison, has come forward to advocate open and unrestricted deeds. It recommends that the property should be entrusted to "that institution to which God has entrusted the manifestation of His truth," and that the first conveyance should be to the Church of Christ at the place designed, and that the Church should be an incorporation for the purpose of holding and transmitting such property. The effect of this, of course, would be to place the property entirely under the control of the Church for the time being. This is the first word on this subject; the second is in the *Patriot* newspaper, which, on such a subject, may be presumed to express to a great extent the views of the Congregational body. It states that if the Baptists will begin this work the Congregationalists will follow. Perhaps it is hardly to be expected that either one or the other of the denominations will do this, but it is quite within expectation that individuals belonging to both should do it. Sir Morton Peto, for instance, and Mr. Morley, with one or two others, might agree to build a Christian place of worship in some destitute district, and set the example which Robert Hall, and other great and good men after him, have so desired to see realised. This kind of thing, however, is not to be forced, and it would be the greatest blunder generally to forestall or anticipate public conviction. We have seen the worth of parchment unions in the Act of Uniformity, just as we see the worth of some Trust Deeds in the experience of bickering and quarrelling churches.

Another defence of the Irish Church—this time by the Archbishop of Armagh, the nephew and successor of his uncle, the millionaire Archbishop. The present Primate has devoted a whole Charge to the subject. He states the incomes of the prelates and other dignitaries, and of the working clergy, and appears to think he has said enough when he has remarked that the revenues of the Establishment only yield about 260L 10s. to each clergyman. This style of defence has of late become rather hackneyed, and there is a class of politicians to whose minds it seems positively convincing. The author of this charge can, however, use it with little grace. It may be very satisfactory for the person in receipt of the largest income in a kingdom to manipulate figures into averages after this fashion; but what of the person in receipt of the smallest income? His Grace of Armagh is in receipt of a gross revenue of more than 15,000L per annum. There are clergymen in his diocese receiving less than 100L Is it any answer to such statements to say that the average income of the two persons is more than 7,500L? Does this make the large income smaller, or the small income larger? Do any representations of this kind alter the facts of the actual condition of the Irish Church? And, supposing that they did, do they get rid of the injustice of the Establishment? The Archbishop, we further notice, remarks, according to the *Record* newspaper, on what are termed the errors and misstatements of the Census Commissioners for Ireland in using the word "parish" in an ecclesiastical sense. We beg to say that they do nothing of the kind, and that they are most careful to state that the parish in Ireland is a civil division, and is not always synonymous with the same word in England, and of that distinction they give the Church the benefit, if benefit it be. We regret to see his Grace's remarks on the relative increase of the Church population in Ireland, because we have hitherto sup-

posed Archbishop Beresford to be that which a stranger would judge him to be, a man who might take, from conviction, a wrong side, but who would never equivocate or pass figures, more than he would coins, for a greater sum than they are really worth.

The appearance of this Charge gives occasion to the *Record* to attack all those who are in any way hostile to the Irish Establishment. "Mr. Gladstone," it says, "and Mr. Bright, the Bishop of Oxford, and Mr. Miall, seem to be animated by the same spirit." It adds that "it is a matter of public notoriety that the Bishop of Oxford openly avows his accord with Mr. Gladstone, and states his belief that the Church of Ireland is a source of weakness to England." This paper will now probably add the *Guardian* to its list, which, in an article on the recent debate, expresses its conclusion that the question is now a national rather than a religious one; that the Irish nation is still likely to refuse to accept the Church which England has established on its soil, and that the confiscation of the revenues of the Church is "a question of policy to be discussed on its own merits with regard to all the circumstances of the case." This significant article ends as follows:—

In one respect we must confess that we feel ourselves unable to adopt to the full the language of those who contend for things as they are. When they protest that every argument against the Irish Establishment tells with equal force against the Church of England, we are compelled to differ from them. So far as the Liberation Society's antagonism is concerned, they are right. The political adventurers who manage that organisation are simply conducting, for their own purposes, a warfare which would be directed equally against any religious society professing to maintain a corporate existence from age to age. But there are worthier combatants, apparently engaged in the same cause, who have more honest reasons for desiring considerable alterations in the revenues and conduct of the Irish Church. The ground on which they desire it is not such as enemies of the Church in England could possibly occupy: and it would be in our opinion, a great mistake if English Churchmen were to assume an identity which does not, in fact, exist. Let us show all brotherly kindness to our fellow-Churchmen in Ireland; but brotherly kindness does not certainly require us to adopt their history as our own, to assume that the two Establishments actually rest on the same foundation, or to make ourselves responsible for all the anomalies, abuses, and prejudices which past centuries of wrong-doing have engendered on Irish ground.

"The political adventurers who manage that organisation (the Liberation Society) are simply conducting, for their own purposes, a warfare which would be directed equally, &c." It was the *Guardian* which said, some two or three years ago, that it was impossible for a Dissenter to be a gentleman. Is this a specimen of what it considers to be gentlemanliness?

Archdeacon Denison is getting low-spirited, and with low-spiritedness has come querulousness. There is an article in the present number of the *Church and State Review* on "The Church of England and the Church of Rome"—two Churches which are aptly enough put side by side, although perhaps one might more aptly follow the other. In the Archdeacon's opinion the contest against Rome is carried on solely by the Church of England. This is how he states it, and how he sweeps the sects away:—

The contest is between the Churches. The Sects count for nothing in the strife, and they know it. It must be either Church of England or Church of Rome. Both Churches, all their imperfections and sins notwithstanding, are parts of the Divine Institution. The sects are things of man's making. Which is the better Church? This is the question. Now a Church is a reality. It is a thing of Orders and Sacraments, and preaching the pure word of God. But specially is it a thing of Orders and Sacraments: Orders faithfully conferred and exercised; Sacraments duly administered and received. These imply and include the preaching of the pure word of God, and are the life of a Church. They are its distinguishing characteristic as against a Sect.

"Orders and Sacraments!"—There is more of this sort of talk, which would be hilarious if it were not rather sad:—

When people get to talk, as is common now, of "the Clergy of all denominations," it is a sign that there is something quite wrong in people's belief about Orders and Sacraments. Toleration is an excellent thing; confession of shortcomings on the part of the Church is a great duty; charity towards all whom those shortcomings have helped to find themselves, or to put themselves, out of the Church's pale is necessary if we would be forgiven ourselves: but it is a bad thing to confuse truth with untruth, and law with the violation of law.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that "greater perils never beset a Church," and that "greater apathy and indifference have never been seen in a Church" than is now the case with the Church of England—in all which, having read the article, we quite agree. In another article satisfaction is expressed at the recent decision of the Privy Council in the Colenso case; and the Archdeacon says:—"We hope that no attempt will be made to alter the position by the action of the colonial legislature. Let the Voluntary principle be fairly worked out in the Church of South Africa." Will it not then be a sect? But we forgot that the sects have "no Orders and Sacraments"!

#### THE LIBERATION SOCIETY'S TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.

As the time draws on for the holding of this important meeting, it is desirable that the Society's friends who wish to be represented on the occasion should acquaint themselves with the steps to be taken for the appointment of delegates. The various modes of appointment are stated in an advertisement appearing elsewhere, and the following additional information is extracted from a circular issued by the committee:—

Where the appointment is made by local committees a meeting will be necessary, and a copy of the resolution making the appointment should be transmitted by the chairman or secretary.

Subscribers may appoint either at a meeting, public or private, or in writing.

Forms of nomination, for the signatures of either subscribers or non-subscribers, may be had from the office in London.

Any number of subscribers may appoint, and, except in the case of non-subscribers, any number of delegates may be nominated.

Under the head of public bodies are included Anti-Church-rate Committees, Anti-Easter-dues Associations, the Unions of the Baptists and Congregationalists, and the various county and other associations and boards of the several Dissenting denominations.

Public meetings will include meetings of congregations held in connection with week-night services.

Where it is not convenient to send up delegates from the locality, gentlemen resident in London, or elsewhere, may be nominated, and names will be furnished for the purpose.

Notifications of appointments should be forwarded to the executive committee as soon as they are made, but the delegates' cards of admission and instructions will not be issued till towards the end of April. Delegates who may be leaving home some time before the Conference are, therefore, requested to give the addresses to which their cards may be sent.

For several reasons it is important that the appointments should be notified in the last week of April, and that Friday, the 28th, should be regarded as the latest date for receiving them.

To as great an extent as possible, the committee will arrange for the accommodation of delegates from the country. Several of the Society's London friends have already kindly intimated their readiness to receive delegates as guests during the sittings of the conference, and, although unable at present to make unreserved promises, the committee will be glad to learn from delegates whether they wish to avail themselves of the hospitality so offered.

A small handbill, descriptive of the mode of convening the conference, and affording information respecting the objects and operations of the Society, has been prepared, and may be had in any quantity, for distributing among the members of congregations and others who may be invited to appoint delegates.

Any additional information needed will be promptly furnished, on an application being addressed to "The Secretary," 2, Serjeants'-inn, Fleet-street, London.

#### THE LIBERATION SOCIETY IN THE NORTH.

MANCHESTER.—On Thursday, the 30th ult., an important meeting of the leading supporters of the Liberation Society in Manchester and the surrounding towns was held at the Trevelyan Hotel. The special object of the meeting was to secure an adequate representation of the volunteers of Lancashire at the Society's approaching triennial conference. Mr. Miall and Mr. Carvell Williams attended as a deputation from the executive committee, and there was a large attendance. Mr. James Sidebottom presided, and among those who were present were—Mr. Mason (of Ashton), Dr. M'Kerrow, Mr. Henry Lee, Mr. F. Taylor, Rev. A. MacLaren, R. v. G. W. Conder, Mr. J. Thompson, Alderman Pochin, Rev. B. Herford, Mr. Petrie (of Rochdale), Rev. P. Thomson, M.A., Rev. J. A. Macfadyen, Mr. B. Whitworth, Mr. Rumney, and Mr. R. Johnson. The statements made by the deputation relative to the present position of the anti-State-Church question, and to the plans of the executive, were listened to with the greatest interest, and resolutions affirming the importance of appointing delegates to the conference from all the Lancashire towns, and of otherwise supporting the movement, were adopted with unanimity and earnestness. Cordial thanks were given to Messrs. Miall and Williams for the important and highly-encouraging information in relation to both political and ecclesiastical events, which they had imparted to the meeting.

NEWCASTLE ON-TYNE.—Last Monday week, Mr. Carvell Williams, and the Rev. W. Best, of Leeds, addressed a public meeting in the Music-hall of this town. Mr. Henry Angus presided, and, at the close of the addresses of the deputation, the Rev. H. Robjohns and the Rev. G. Bell submitted a resolution. The *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* gives an excellent report of the speeches, for which we have not space. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Williams met the Society's principal supporters at tea, and it was arranged to send delegates to the coming conference.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Mr. Williams addressed a private meeting of the subscribers here on the 4th inst., W. James, Esq., the Mayor of the town, presiding. A new local committee was appointed, and it was agreed to appoint delegates to the conference.

SUNDERLAND.—On Wednesday evening last, nearly all the leading volunteers of this town assembled at tea, at the Bridge Hotel, to receive Mr. Carvell Williams, of the Liberation Society,

who was to deliver an address on its present position, its prospects, and its policy. Alderman Wilson, a member of the Society of Friends, presided, and J. Candlish, Esq. (who will be a candidate for the representation of the borough at the next election), W. Wright, Esq., A. Cannon, Esq., W. Thackeray, Esq., and the Rev. Messrs. Shillito, Rees, Poole, Angus, Matheson, and Elrick, were among those present. The proceedings excited great interest, and Mr. Williams was warmly thanked for the valuable information he had communicated. Advantage was taken of the meeting to reconstitute the local committee, and to arrange for the representation of the subscribers at the conference.

DARLINGTON.—A meeting of a similar kind was held in this town on Thursday evening last. Edward Kepling, Esq., presided, and the Rev. Messrs. Kendal and Gordon, and other influential Dissenters belonging to various denominations, attended and spoke. A committee was appointed, and the nomination of delegates was also provided for.

CREWE.—On Tuesday, the 4th inst., Mr. Kearley, the society's Lancashire agent, lectured in the Town Hall; Mr. R. Pedley presiding. The object of the lecture was to explain and vindicate the Society's purpose, and furnished some telling illustrations of the present condition of the English Establishment.

#### DR. CANDLISH ON THE ENGLISH ESTABLISHMENT.

At the closing of the session of the Free Church College on Wednesday, Principal Candlish delivered an address, on the unprecedented state of matters in the English Church, with reference to doctrine, discipline, and government, as recent legal decisions have defined her position, and chiefly in respect to the position of the Evangelical section of that Church, with whose "thickening embarrassment" he felt great sympathy. The advance which has been made in the direction of allowing all opinions of all sorts, from highest Laudism to lowest Essay-and-Reviewism, to harbour within the latitudinarian ark, must be making conscientious believers in the simple Gospel somewhat uncomfortable. Nor could they have any reasonable hope of the supreme tribunal, which had gone so far to unsettle all things, being modified and reformed in any way that could give them more security or satisfaction. It was scarcely possible to imagine any change in the constitution of the court of ultimate appeal except what might be, and in all probability would be, a change not for the better, but for the worse. Any change that did take place would be in the line in which they were now running—the line of unlimited latitudinarianism.

Surely, in such a state of things, it concerns all Evangelical men in the English Establishment to be seriously directing their minds to this whole subject of the right constitution of the Church of Christ, if they would not be found helpless and at stand when a crisis arrives and action may be delayed no longer. It is, indeed, by no means desirable, but very much the reverse, that the Church of England, or the Evangelical section of it, should be prematurely weakened or broken up, either by individual secessions or by desultory and impatient movements. But the way to prevent surprise is to reconnoitre the field beforehand; and the only security against private rashness or private weakness, damaging a great public cause, is for its friends to know themselves and to know their position. It is impossible not to see in the bosom of that Establishment the elements of a case of conscience that may soon become too urgent and difficult for good men to postpone, or for wise men to settle separately from one another. It is impossible not to foresee, in the unprecedented uncertainty of public affairs, contingencies that may compel instant decision. I know well the intense reluctance of the pious clergy in the English Church to controversy, and especially to controversy on points of church government and order; and so vivid an impression have I of what these holy and heavenly-minded men are, and of what they do as pastors—the high-toned spirituality of their own walk with God, and the deep devotedness of their ministry—that I think I can understand the sensitive recoil with which they shrink from ecclesiastical polemics; and I feel as if I could not merely sympathise with them, but could almost envy them. Nor is it any wonder, in another point of view, they should be disposed to gather themselves up, each within the limits of his own sphere of duty, having no care but for the souls of his people, and feeling no responsibility either for the maintenance of the constitution or for the management of the affairs of the Church to which he belongs. Even if there be soul-destroying heresies which she cannot help tolerating within her bosom, and secular influences and orders to which her public functionaries must submit, he may mourn over these evils for the sake of others; but he sees nothing in them to make his own position uneasy, so long as, in his own pulpit, and within his own parish, his mouth is not shut from preaching the Gospel. I am far from wishing to ascribe such a manner of thinking and acting, among the godly ministers of the English Establishment, either to indolence or timidity, still less to any deficiency of conscientious principle. I believe that many of them are animated by a peculiarly high sense of duty; and I can see how, in the circumstances in which they are placed, their conduct may be natural. The truth is, their position is very much like that of private citizens in the commonwealth, or private soldiers in the army. . . . On somewhat of the same principle a clergyman may isolate and, as it were, individualise himself and his own peculiar sphere of pastoral work, not asking too carefully whether the economy under which he acts be well ordered, according to the will of God, or the reverse; so long as there is no interference with his own personal ministry, and no pressure on his own particular conscience. Thus these men may plausibly reason. They do not care to inquire how or why they happen to be in the Church's pale. They are not accountable for her being what she is; nor for what others who have the power may do with her; nor for what she may require others in other stations to do. It is enough that nothing

is directly enforced upon themselves to which they cannot reconcile their own minds; and nothing exacted in their own routine of duty to which they cannot conform or submit. This of itself, however, is surely rather a strong strain upon conscience. And surely, also, in thus holding themselves relieved from responsibility as regards the constitution of their Church, these good men should bear in mind how, in point of fact, it came to take its present shape and form. It was not based upon an appeal to the Word of God as the sole and supreme authority; but regard was always had to considerations of expediency, and the desire not to offend or exclude altogether certain parties of doubtful soundness in the faith. Excepting, perhaps, her theological creed—though even that in practice if not in theory is thrown loose—all the other departments of her ritual, polity, and government were arranged upon no set plan or scriptural model; but they were formed rather by the action of the uncertain elements of party strife and party compromise, and allowed to settle down very much as the currents of successive political revolutions chanced to leave them. Some Anglican divines, indeed, reckon this an advantage, and are accustomed to boast of it as a recommendation, that their Church order, like the civil constitution of the country, is not an artificial contrivance of human system-mongers, but the natural product of events in God's providence; that it has not been made, but has grown; and is now what it is, not in accordance with any preconceived theory, or technical formula, or code, but through the operation of causes which the idea of a speculative optimism neither suggested nor controlled. It may be so. It may have been better to trust, as it were, to the chapter of accidents than to do what the Scottish Reformers did, when, having the same work to accomplish—the work of reforming their Church from Popery—they took the Word of God in their hands, and setting every other consideration aside, sought to learn from it what sort of institution Christ intended the visible society of His followers on earth to be. The English plan may have been, in some views of it, more prudent and more politic. It has this inconvenience, however, that it keeps the Church always in a state of nonage, or minority—carried in the arms, or leaning on the hand, of the stronger power of the State, and never acquiring the ability to stand or walk alone. She does nothing for herself; all is done for her by other parties, or by casual events and circumstances. And what follows? Let an emergency arise; let the props of State support be withdrawn from the whole, or from any faithful portion of the Church; let there be a call of duty for a loud protest against error, and a clean separation from it; and instead of stability and vigorous united action, there must be the helpless staggering and stumbling of one whose limbs refuse to carry him, and whose mind misgives him at every step he has to take. I cannot help thinking that these days in which we live, pregnant with ominous changes, and throwing all reflecting men back upon first principles, require, on the part of evangelical Episcopalians, a manly review of their position, in the broad light of Scriptural example and authority—and with a view also to the possibility of an organisation distinct from any now subsisting being one day required for the relief and enlargement of straitened consciences, and for giving full and free scope to the vital energy of the Gospel. These brethren are not Congregationalists or Independents, although indeed, as things now stand, they present too much the appearance of their being so, for they act and suffer as isolated individuals, each alone in his own sphere. But let the roots of bitterness, already showing themselves above ground, spring up a little higher to trouble them; let the formalist of the old High-Church, the fanaticism of the more recent Tractarian party, and rationalism tolerated in all its forms, from modified theories of inspiration to the denial of all definite doctrine, if not to downright infidelity itself; let these unclean spirits advance a little farther and make worse confusion in the ecclesiastical Babel; let it once become a serious and urgent question whether the more spiritual section can any longer be even nominally yokefellows with these other parties in the same branch of Christ's professing and witnessing Church, without sanctioning more of what is evil than they can hope to accomplish of what is good; let the impression grow, and the fact be made apparent—as it may be sooner than many imagine—that, upon the whole, whatever weight its being established gives the Church is influential for promoting what is unscriptural in the community of its ministers and members, and that the sounder portion of them would really tell more by being severed, at any sacrifice, from the rest; let the idea, also, of public as well as private responsibility take possession of many minds; and let it be felt that the orthodoxy of the Articles and the earnestness of the Liturgy cannot much longer be pleaded as a constitutional apology or defence against the manifest practical ascendancy of other systems, favoured more or less by the canons, patronised by men of power, and protected by courts of law—I say, let such a progress of things be supposed possible—and the supposition certainly is not extravagant—so as to make it plain, at last, beyond all further compromise, that of the many children struggling in the strange womb of this common mother, one must, with whatever pain, be separated and become independent; and, along with all this, let it be anticipated that other perplexing questions arise connected with the endowment of Popery; that the infidel principle of an indiscriminate support of all creeds is more and more fully carried out; that the national resources become thus really more available for propagating anti-Christian error than for maintaining the truth of God; that the great value of an establishment as a national testimony for Christ and a national institute for spreading His Gospel is thus gone; and that Christian men are compelled to entertain scruples about the lawfulness of purchasing a continued State connection by conniving at conditions so ungodly; let the hypothetical case be realised, and let me ask what issue or outgoing it is likely to have?

Dr. Candlish went on to say that he deprecated anything like a return of the ecclesiastical anarchy of the seventeenth century. No one could doubt that the cause of that anarchy was the want of concert, consultation, and mutual confidence among the Evangelical clergy. Any such systematic action was perhaps impracticable in these days, but now, with widely different circumstances, some of the best men in the English Church must be beginning already to face the prospect of some decisive step being forced

upon them, and must be making up their minds to the possible necessity of some separate and independent organisation being set up. Their position in Scotland, for which they had reason to bless God who had ripened them for it, was a hidden field in comparison with what the Church of England must present if any testing question should agitate it over all its borders; and the question might be more obviously vital, more manifestly and directly touching the deep, essential truth of God in the Gospel of His Son than what made their own disruption inevitable.

#### LONDON CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

##### WESTERN DISTRICT UNION.

On Tuesday evening, a conference of ministers, deacons, and other office-bearers of the Congregational churches in the western district of the metropolis, was held at Park Chapel Schoolroom, Camden-town, Mr. Samuel Morley in the chair. The object of the conference was to consider the project for the formation of a Western District Association as an auxiliary to or in affiliation with the London Congregational Association.

The Rev. J. H. WILSON read the following report from a provisional committee recently appointed by a preliminary meeting:

When the London Congregational Association was formed in 1861, it was provided "that, should the work so expand as to render it desirable, London should be divided into district associations in connection with the general committee"; but, soon after the association had begun its labours, the need of district operations was felt, and it was then resolved to give effect to this provision, and accept the postal districts as a basis of order. The Eastern District Union was then formed. It comprises all our churches within the postal limits, has a general and executive committee, holds monthly, quarterly, and half-yearly meetings, undertakes the administration of its own local affairs, and is represented in the general committee by its secretary and treasurer, who are members *ex officio* of that board. The parent society sustains three evangelists in this district, besides a female missionary; contributes a third part of the salaries of other two; and, by a grant-in-aid, has enabled a poor and struggling church to support their minister until they have now the prospect of a new chapel and a self-sustaining interest.

The committee of the association, although engaged with the necessary preliminaries for the formation of other district unions, did not deem it advisable to promote the establishment of them until it should be ascertained, by the working of the Eastern District Association, how the project was likely to answer. They are now in circumstances to go forward, the Eastern Union having realised their expectations, and with such modifications as may serve to increase its power, by enlarging its basis, promises to become a permanent and successful auxiliary.

In view of this progress the present meeting has been called. A few ministers and deacons were first invited to meet Mr. Samuel Morley, who, as chairman of the London Association, has taken a deep and practical interest in the work, and there being a strong and unanimous feeling in favour of the project of a Western District Union, a sub-committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for carrying with effect. The resolutions passed at the preliminary meeting have been sent to all the delegates, ministers, deacons, and other officers of the churches within the North-Western, the Western, and West Central postal divisions, the sub-committee having assumed that the forty churches within those limits would constitute a large enough organisation; but leaving everything open for the conference, that the brethren assembled might not in any way, or to any extent, be fettered in giving full and free expression to their sentiments in discussing the merits of the proposal.

It remains now for the sub-committee to state the grounds on which they have included three of the postal divisions instead of one as had been at first proposed, and to urge the importance of the undertaking.

Judging from the experience of the Eastern Union, it is clear that unless the district associations include the richer, with the poorer churches, the strong cannot help the weak as they ought to do by means of this organisation. The dense masses of people living in a state of practical heathenism in the districts of Fetter-lane and St. Giles can never be reclaimed by a Union representing only the independent churches of the West Central division, but when the area of the Union is extended, so as to comprise the wealthy suburban districts, there will be a concentrated power, which, if rightly used, will do more for the spiritual welfare of the sunken masses on which it may be brought to bear, than any power which has yet been wielded by the isolated efforts even of the most zealous and useful of our churches. By this combination of districts, opportunity will also be afforded for selecting and establishing new congregations in the suburban and constantly increasing neighbourhoods, for it would then be a comparatively easy matter to provide temporary places of meeting, support well-qualified evangelists to prepare the way, and then gather up the fruits of their labour by wise and practical consolidations. The Church of England by its Diocesan Association, and the Wesleyan body by means of their recently established organisation for the erection of new interests, have made rapid progress of late in their work of evangelisation—and these are not the times for independency to lag behind.

It is not considered necessary in presenting this brief report to go fully and specifically into the statistics of spiritual destitution; but having recently received from Mr. George Grahame, her Majesty's Registrar-General, a valuable summary of Census returns of 1861 as compared with those of 1851, a few of the more important figures will serve to indicate the field of our operations, and the work we shall have to do. In Kensington, for example, there were 66,459 more people in 1861 than in 1851; in St. George's, Hanover-square, an increase of 14,517; and in St. Pancras the population increased by 32,296, without any corresponding increase in the means of grace. In all the parish of Paddington we had only, until the church assembling in Westbourne-hall was opened, one Independent church, and in all the other districts the population has outgrown us in a ratio scarcely less depressing. Let us up, then, and be doing! "While we are deliberating at Rome, Saguntum

perishes." Every day lost involves the loss of immortal souls which we, by the Divine blessing, might be the means of saving. It is emphatically our work now to carry the Gospel to every man's door, and that is the only work that will "redeem the time," and bless the perishing multitudes around us; "for," as the late Dr. Chalmers has beautifully said, "it is neither a system of un-Christian morals, nor the meagre Christianity of those who deride as methodistical all the peculiarities of our faith, that will recall the neglected population; there is not one of the expedients by which you can recover lost humanity, but by going forth with the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the people. Nothing will subdue them but that regenerating power which goes along with the faith of the New Testament; nothing will charm away the alienation of their spirits but their belief in the overtures of redeeming mercy."

The CHAIRMAN expressed his earnest desire to see a more vigorous use of means for the development of church life and aggressive action among the spiritually-destitute parts of London than had yet been employed, and submitted many statistics painfully demonstrative of the need of more individual consecration, as well as wider efforts, in order that the Congregationalists might do their full share of the work of evangelising London. It had been said that they were a body of Christians whose mission lay with the middle classes; but he felt that if that were really so, he would not remain an Independent for a single day more. He held, however, that they had a mission to the perishing multitudes around them. He believed that their principles were essentially aggressive, that their system of church polity was sufficiently elastic to admit of application to every variety of Christian effort, and that if the churches were fully alive to the importance of their calling, and solemnly impressed with a right sense of their responsibility, all classes of the community would, by the Divine blessing, soon come to experience the blessed influence of their aggressive power. He was very glad to find that there was now the prospect of a union in the western district; for, although he sometimes thought that they had organisation enough, yet it was desirable to have such a combination of the churches, as would bring the ministers and members into sympathy with each other, when they could become helpers to each other in the work they were called to do. It was of the utmost importance, however, that they should take care lest by establishing an association they should weaken the motive to individual service. He had no doubt whatever but the City Mission had done great good in London, and no one respected more than he did the services of that institution; but at the same time he must say that he believed it had in many cases sent the church asleep, for, when they compared the amount of work which had been done formerly by church-members with what was generally done now, it would be found that many were compounding for personal service by a contribution to the City Mission funds. He was sure that one of the most successful modes of evangelising spiritually-destitute localities was the Territorial Mission. When he was in Edinburgh, Dr. Guthrie gave him some deeply-interesting details of the work of territorial missions in that city, showing how one church, for example, would select a district and send a band of workers there, while a suitably-qualified evangelist would be at work during every day of the week, and how this system had been the means of reclaiming many of the worst parts of the cities and towns of Scotland. They had, indeed, something of the same kind in London,—Mr. Alton's church, for instance, having nobly worked a destitute field in Spitalfields; but they must multiply this agency; and, although he had been very much disappointed that the offer which had been made by himself and the Chapel-building Society to pay two-thirds of the cost of twelve mission chapels had met with but a feeble response, he did trust that the churches would now be awakened to put forth new effort, and that not only twelve but fifty territorial missions would be established. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. C. GALLAWAY moved a resolution to the effect that it was desirable to form a Western District Union. (See advertisement.) He was confident that the time was come for the establishment of such a union, and that when formed it would be a great blessing to the western districts of London.

JOSEPH ALEXANDER, Esq., as representing Craven Chapel, seconded the motion. He was sorry that their new pastor, Mr. Wilson, had to leave; but he was glad to say that he was very hearty in his approval of the proposed union. For his own part, he did not need to go far for an argument in favour of such a union, for he had only to look around him at that meeting, on many brethren whose faces he had never seen before, in order to be convinced of the importance of an organisation which would bring the churches often together, that they might come to know each other, and "provoke unto love and good works."

The Rev. JOHN GUTHRIE, as a member of the London Congregational Association, could testify to the good it was doing, and urged the importance of a local organisation for the western districts of the metropolis.

The Rev. J. T. RUSSELL, of Westbourne-hall Church, gave an account of the struggles he had had to contend with in forming a new church there, and showed how his work would have been facilitated if there had been an association to assist in such an undertaking.

J. J. KNIGHT, Esq., spoke in favour of the project, and earnestly urged the importance of individual consecration to God's service by every church-member doing something.

The resolution was also supported by other ministers and brethren, and then cordially passed.

The Rev. JOSHUA C. HARRISON moved a resolu-

tion expressive of the objects of the proposed association. He felt strongly that a union of the churches in the western and north-western districts of London was urgently called for, and believed that, if the union now proposed did not embrace all the churches at first, it would ultimately do so, and could not fail to do much good. He liked the idea of uniting all the churches, with a view to select centres of population for new interests, and also the development of church life. They needed more than ever the baptism of the Holy Spirit; and, if they had that, then their organisations would be great powers for good, concentrating and diffusing systematically such influences as would bless the spiritually-destitute districts of London.

JAMES TOWNLEY, Esq., seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr. TURBERVILLE and others.

The Rev. Mr. MACGREGOR, of Paddington Chapel, the Rev. Mr. GOUCHER, of Robert-street Chapel, and other ministers, supported the resolution, which was then passed, and a committee appointed to carry the project into effect.

#### WEST RIDING HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

The forty-fifth anniversary of the West Riding Home Missionary Society and the annual meeting of the West Riding Congregational Union was held in Wakefield last week. Nearly two hundred ministers and delegates were present.

On Monday afternoon the meeting of the West Riding Independent Provident Society and the executive committee of the Home Missionary Society, and of the Congregational Union, were held in the committee-room of Zion Chapel; and in the evening a preliminary devotional service took place in Salem Chapel, when an address on "Work" was delivered by the Rev. J. P. GLEDSTONE, of Sheffield, and on "Prayer" by the Rev. H. GAVIN, of Harrogate.

On Tuesday morning the annual meeting of the West Riding Congregational Union was held in Zion Chapel, Wakefield. There was a goodly attendance of ministers and delegates, and the chair was occupied by the Rev. J. A. Savage, of Gomersal. After preliminary devotional services, the CHAIRMAN delivered an introductory address, his remarks being principally directed to the qualifications of candidates for training in the colleges of the body with the view to their admission to the ministry. He showed that there should be an entire devotion to the work manifested by the candidates; and especially did he consider carefulness of inquiry in this respect as essential under the new system for the training of village preachers and missionaries, as the shortness of the time required for preparation may operate as a temptation to those who wish to get into the ministry easily, and who, though they may think at the time they are called to the pastorate, may ultimately find, to the injury of the church and themselves, that this is not so. After the chairman's address, the Rev. W. KINGSLAND, of Bradford, read a paper on the responsibility of the ministry and the church in reference to the education of the young, and particularly of the baptized children of the congregation. Mr. Kingsland, in a clear and well-reasoned paper, laid it down that, though the first and the most important measure of responsibility with reference to the religious training of their children rests upon parents, yet still the church has a duty with respect to them which, though other methods might be devised, he appeared to think is best fulfilled, not directly through the children, but indirectly through the parents, in teaching the latter their duty. An interesting discussion followed, in which Dr. Campbell, of Bradford, the Rev. R. Bowman, of Heckmondwike, Dr. Fallding, of Rotherham, Mr. W. E. Glyde, of Bradford, and the Rev. Mr. Roberts, of Halifax, took part. The next paper read was by the Rev. R. HARLEY, of Brighouse, on "The Relation of the Ministry and the Church to the Sunday-school." The speaker strongly recommended a close connection between the church and the Sunday-school, and his views were generally supported in the discussion that followed, in which several gentlemen took part. The Rev. D. LOXTON, of Sheffield, then delivered an address in support of the ecclesiastical form of Biblical instruction, and after a discussion it was resolved that the subject should be referred to the executive committee for consideration. The question of the adoption of the model trust-deed was then introduced by Dr. CAMPBELL and Mr. E. BUTLER, of Leeds, and, subject to certain modifications of detail, these gentlemen were in favour of it. As, however, there was not time for a full discussion, no resolution was passed, but it was intimated that suggestions would be gladly received and considered by the committee of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, prior to the meeting to be held next May. Several ministers were then admitted to the Union. The financial statement which was read showed that the disbursements had been 871. 10s. 10d., there being a balance of 271. 14s. 6d. due to the treasurer, though, when certain accounts came in, it was expected that the receipts and expenses would be about equal. The committee was appointed for the year, and then, the usual votes of thanks having been given to the gentlemen who had prepared papers and to the chairman, the ministers and delegates adjourned for dinner.

Later in the evening tea was served, and at seven o'clock the public meeting of the West Riding Home Missionary Society was held in Salem Chapel, there being a very large attendance, and the chapel throughout being quite crowded. The chair was occupied by John Crossley, Esq., of Halifax, and he was surrounded

by several ministers and influential laymen. A hymn having been sung and prayer offered,

The Rev. J. H. MORGAN read the forty-fifth annual report, which stated that during the year, by the aid of the society, the Gospel was brought within the reach of more than 200,000 souls; and it helped to support fifty-five places of worship, thirty-three being parishes, and the remainder preaching-stations, though at nearly all are regularly organised churches. The chapels in connection with the society furnish sitting accommodation for 17,433 persons, and the buildings have cost 35,875., the whole having been paid, with the exception of 2,132. 10s. The report went on to say:—

The conviction has been growing in the minds of the most active friends of the society that its operations should become more aggressive. Since the formation of the society, forty years ago, the circumstances of the West Riding, so far as evangelistic agencies are concerned, are entirely changed. Then the spiritual destitution was in the country, while now it is in the suburban districts of towns, where religious agencies have entirely failed to keep pace with the growth of the population. Much has been done by the society for the country, but, hitherto, very little for the towns. The claims of these centres of population were recognised by an influential committee appointed at the meeting held in 1858, at Wakefield, and a resolution to the effect that special attention to these districts should be given. That resolution was endorsed by all the district committees, and has been endorsed in substance at every annual meeting of the society held since that time. It has now been resolved by the finance committee, in connection with this movement, that an effort will be made by a canvass of the whole of the churches in the Riding to raise the income by 1,000. per annum, in order to aid local endeavours in supporting ministers in populous places where there may be a prospect of gathering self-supporting congregations. The subject is now before the churches; and though so far the response to the appeal has only been partial, it will be carried on. At Sheffield and Bradford measures have been taken to meet the appeal in a liberal spirit, and two well-known liberal members of the finance committee have offered to contribute 100. each, on condition that the other 800. is raised among the 150 churches of the Riding. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his speech, said that a gentleman had brought under his notice a proposition to supply the missing link of communication, and he had made a proposal in committee that it be adopted. It was that they should accept the services of the Rev. A. Russell, M.A. (who was resigning his charge), and see if they could not by means of his agency improve their position. The plan would be adopted; and he had now to bespeak, on behalf of Mr. Russell, the kind assistance of friends when he was visiting various places, not altogether with regard to money matters, but in other respects; and he did hope and trust that, as this was an experiment, the friends, as far as practicable, would co-operate with him in carrying out this desirable object. (Hear, hear.) The Rev. W. ROBERTS moved, and Alderman LAW, of Bradford, seconded, and the Rev. T. W. HOLMES, of Marsden, supported a resolution for the adoption of the report.

The Rev. H. TARRANT, of Sheffield, addressed the meeting, proposing a resolution to the effect that Congregational principles, being the principles of the New Testament, and voluntaryism the best mode of aggressive Christian action, it is required of those who profess them to give them effect to the utmost of their power. The rev. gentleman made a long and brilliant speech, showing that Congregationalism is the most purely Gospel form of Christianity, and the form best calculated to evangelise the world. W. H. LEE, Esq. (Mayor of Wakefield), who was received with cheers, seconded the resolution, and in the course of his remarks said:—

The resolution expressed the opinion that Congregational principles are taught in the New Testament, and that voluntaryism is the best form of aggressive Christian action. They are Nonconformists, and must so remain, so long as the authority of man is set up for the authority of God—(Hear, hear)—and that position it is their plain duty to maintain. They must also endeavour to spread their principles, and do the work appointed them, for though—no doubt, for good and wise purposes—the Church of Christ is broken up into varied sections, events are proving that all sections of the church are tending in the direction of adopting their principles in the matter of voluntaryism. (Hear, hear.) It is so with regard to that sect which professes to stigmatise them as schismatics and Dissenters—(Hear, hear)—and he rejoiced to see the success which they are achieving by its means, not only in this country, but where it does not depend on the State. (Hear, hear.) It was satisfactory to know that Episcopalianism had been freed from the trammels of the State in the colonies—(cheers)—and he had yet to learn that the Church had suffered from the transaction. It had not indeed suffered, but the contrary; and he was glad to find that, unfettered by State trammels, the ministers of the church could meet freely with the ministers of other Churches to concert together the best means of accomplishing the object they all have in view. (Hear, hear.) The spirit of freedom he was also glad to say is spreading in England; and it was not many days ago that a member of an Episcopal Church in the town had told him that they felt a desire to be free from the chilly influence of the State, and that as a congregation they were determined to carry on their work without the assistance of the money of the State. (Cheers.)

The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Revs. J. S. EASTMEAD, H. SANDERS, J. A. SAVAGE, and W. BYLES, Esq., of Bradford.

On Wednesday morning, the General Committee of the West Riding Home Missionary Society assembled in Salem Chapel, to investigate the state of the beneficiary churches, and to vote grants in their aid, amounting to nearly 1,100. The Mayor, Mr. W. H. Lee, presided. Several of the small churches applied for larger grants than before, but there were others which required less, and the church

at Castleford, under the Rev. H. Simon, through its delegate, Mr. McDowell, thanked the committee for former grants, and, amid cheers, stated that such had been their prosperity that they could now do without a grant.

On Wednesday evening, the annual sermon was preached in Zion Chapel, to a large congregation, by the Rev. J. P. Chown, of Bradford. The preacher took for his text the fourth verse of the 60th Psalm, "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth."

#### CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF SCOTLAND.

The fifty-third annual meetings of the Congregational Union of Scotland were held last week, in Aberdeen, commencing on Tuesday morning and terminating on Thursday night. A large number of ministers and delegates were present. The proceedings commenced on Tuesday morning by a prayer-meeting in Dee-street Church. The annual meetings of the members of the Widows' Fund and Ministers' Provident Fund were afterwards held, and the general meeting of the Union followed, at which the Rev. J. M. JARVIE, of Greenock, delivered an exceedingly interesting address, which was listened to with the closest attention. One of the points dwelt upon was that Christian union, in its lofty Scriptural idea is something widely different from, and immeasurably superior to, mere ecclesiastical incorporation. In conclusion, Mr. Jarvie offered one or two suggestions respecting the "present duty of our Churches and Union, so far as that may be indicated by acknowledged wants and tendencies."

They must remember that no Church or denomination deserves to exist upon mere traditions. The Church of Christ has a mission to every age, as well as a message for all ages. And Congregational church life and denominational activities afford ample facilities for adaptations to the religious wants of the times. And while keeping this in view, and seeking to extend their agencies to meet the wants of the neglected population, they should consider also such subjects as the best mode of training the ministry—a question of great and growing importance, &c. The speaker also among other things suggested whether devoting one of the services of these annual meetings exclusively to frank conferences upon topics not comprehended within the formal constitution of the Union, yet not less affecting the welfare of the Church and denomination, might not add much to the interest and usefulness of the meetings.

The report of the committee stated that during the year, there has been a clear increase of 135 members to the churches assisted by the Union; this increase is to the net membership, apart from deaths and removals.

The TREASURER (Mr. M'Laren) having read the financial report, the Rev. J. DUNCAN moved that the report be adopted, printed, and circulated, which was seconded by Mr. M'CALLUM of Glasgow. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Jarvie and the Treasurer, and the next annual meeting was appointed to be held in Edinburgh.

At six o'clock p.m., a *conversazione* took place in the Music-hall, when a company of 800 assembled. Most of the ministers named above were present, and we observed on the platform, in addition, the Rev. Dr. W. L. Alexander, Edinburgh, and the Rev. E. Conder, Leeds, who appeared as the deputation from the Congregational Union of England and Wales. W. LESLIE, Esq., occupied the chair, and in his opening address spoke of Congregationalism as having been a strange plant in Scotland, but being now acclimated. The Rev. Mr. BAILEY, of Broughty Ferry, having spoken on the subject, "Are the results of our church life and work satisfactory?" dwelt upon the importance of a more intense cultivation of the hidden life of the soul with God as the great want of the church of the present day. The Rev. EUSTACE CONDER then addressed the meeting, dwelling much upon the current mistake that instead of life creating organisation, organisation can create life. He then dwelt upon the subject of Chapel-building Societies. The Rev. W. PULSFORD spoke upon the missionary character of the church as in accordance with Christianity, the function of which was to receive from its Head and give to the world.

On Wednesday there was a public breakfast of the Union members, over which the Rev. Mr. M'Lean, of Forfar, presided, after which statements were made respecting the Widows' Fund (of deceased pastors)—which amounts to 8,000*l.*, and the Ministers' Provident Fund. The regular income of the last-named institution in 1864 was 33*4*l.** 19*s.*, and payments of annuities for three quarters 66*s.*, leaving a free balance of 268*s.* The payments to annuitants would be about 100*s.* a year, and the income required 200*s.*, and that point reached, the millennium of this fund would have arrived. (Applause.) Mr. JARVIE made a statement relative to the Theological Hall Scholarship:—

He was glad to say that, through the devoted and unwearyed labours of Mr. Smith, the subscription list was now complete—(cheers)—and 2,500*l.* permanently secured for the institution, to be appropriated in forming scholarships and bursaries, the definite settlement of which would now have the most earnest consideration. One scholarship was designed to perpetuate the memory of the revered name of one departed—the late Dr. Russell, of Dundee—(applause)—and another would be in memoriam of one who yet lives to gather ripening honours—Dr. Lindsay Alexander—(loud cheers)—the Alexander Scholarship. Mr. Jarvie added that, in addition to these five permanent bursaries or scholarships, they had also five contemporary bursaries contributed annually, respectively by Mr. Wemyss, Fraserburgh, Mr. George Smith, Glasgow, who has given one for some years, and now offers another; and by Mr. Edward Baxter, Dundee, who has also given one for a year or two, and now offers another—(applause.)

Other business, such as the claims of the Shetland Islands, subsequently engaged attention.

The annual sermon of the Union was preached in George-street Chapel, at noon, by the Rev. E. Conder. The chapel was completely filled, a large number of ministers being among the audience. Rev. Mr. Forbes, Glasgow, conducted the preliminary services. Mr. Conder took for his text Mark xiv. 14, confining his attention to the words, "The Master said."

The public meeting of the Union took place at six p.m., in Blackfriars'-street Church—Councillor James Matthews in the chair. The chapel was crowded in every part. The CHAIRMAN dwelt upon the importance of chapel architecture; Mr. GALBRAITH upon the interest which members of town churches should take in young people from the country; the Rev. Mr. SPENCE gave an address on "Spiritual work in relation to spiritual life." "How," he said, "are we to give utterance to our spiritual life? Christian activity is about the best field for the expression of spiritual life. The every-day duties of Christian life, done in a Christian spirit, is the best and highest expression of spiritual life. We are not to seek for its expression in some marvellous sacrifice. No; but in the quiet avocations of daily life."

Mr. CONDER then addressed the meeting at some length on the character, position, and work of the Congregational churches in England.

While there is a growing sympathy amongst all the Free Churches—Congregational, Baptist, Wesleyan, and Presbyterian—(the feeling of common sympathy elicited by a visit of a deputation from the English Presbyterian Church to the Union meeting at Hull having even alarmed some of the staunch brethren)—there is a growing antagonism as regards the Established Church; an antagonism not so much on their side as on the other, and which got a stimulus by the recent commemoration of the ejection of 2,000 ministers in 1662. (Hear, hear.) That feeling of antagonism will grow, and almost force into closer union all the Free Churches of Evangelical Christians outside the pale of the Established Church. It will become a broader, deeper, and more serious chasm of demarcation between the Established Church and the rest of the churches. The cause of this, as all who have eyes to see must know, is that those questions concerning the great fundamental doctrines of the Reformation settled 300 years ago beyond controversy are revived, and have to be fought over again. Mr. Conder illustrated this by such facts as a curate, not 100 miles from Leeds, refusing to converse with a dying man, because he could not produce his certificate of baptism, the fact that in seventy London churches the ritual adopted at the communion—the processions, &c.—are virtually, almost literally, the observances of the Romish Mass, while the "Brotherhood of Holy Sacrament," including a great many clergymen, duly celebrate mass at stated periods for the reunion of the Anglican, Roman, and Greek Churches.

Dr. W. L. ALEXANDER, of Edinburgh, dwelt upon the thought that it was the design of the Great Head of the Church that his Church should be an instrument for work in the world. It was not a mere form, a mere shadow, not a mere place of quiet retreat from the world; it was as a city set on an hill, which could not be hid. He went on to point out the distinction between unity and union among churches, and showed that while God had set a great work before the Church, He had supplied it with corresponding means to accomplish the glorious end in view. After a vote of thanks to the chairman, the Rev. Mr. Johnstone, of Glasgow, pronounced the benediction, and the meeting broke up.

On Thursday, a conference was held at noon, in Dee-street Chapel, chiefly on the subject of originating a Chapel-building Fund. Very interesting statements were made by a number of the brethren, and the Fund was initiated by two donations of 100*l.* each—one from Councillor Leslie, Aberdeen, the other from Mr. Smith, St. Andrew's. Rev. Mr. Spence was appointed secretary *pro tem.*

The meeting in connection with the Theological Hall was held in Albion-street Chapel, on Thursday evening. John Leslie, Esq., manufacturer, in the chair. The report stated that there were 18 students in connection with the Hall when the session terminated. Detailed reports from Drs. Alexander and Gowan, in their respective courses, were included in the report. The Revs. T. Gilfillan, of Aberdeen, and W. D. Knowles, Perth, conducted the examination of the students, and their report was very satisfactory as regarded both the junior and senior classes. The report referred to the establishment of scholarships and bursaries, as noticed in the proceedings at the public breakfast. The treasurer's accounts showed a total charge for the year of 789*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*, the discharge being equal. Rev. Mr. TROUP moved adoption of the report in an able address; and Rev. Mr. FORBES, Glasgow, seconded, also in an effective speech. Rev. Mr. CONDER gave an eloquent address, bearing on the subject of theological training; and the report having been approved, Rev. D. RUSSELL moved a resolution respecting the scholarships, which was seconded by the Rev. T. GILFILLAN and very cordially passed. Mr. SMITH, who was received with warm applause, acknowledged the vote in a very genial speech. The Rev. Mr. MACINTOSH moved the appointment of the Theological Hall Committee, which was seconded by the Rev. Mr. JOHNSTONE, and the motion was carried. After some remarks from the Rev. Mr. Jarvie, Dr. D. BROWN, of the Free Church College, at the call of the chairman, expressed his sentiments of cordial interest in the Union meetings, so far as he had been able to attend them. The Rev. Mr. ARTHUR moved thanks to the Congregational Union of England, and to Mr. Conder as their representative, which was carried by acclamation, and acknowledged by Mr. CONDER. Part of the 126th Psalm was then sung, and the Rev. Mr. Arthur having pronounced the benediction, the proceedings closed.

CHURCH-RATES AT MARDEN, KENT.—A vestry-meeting was held on Friday, the 7th inst., for passing the churchwardens' accounts and making a rate. A former rate made two years since having been discovered to be informal, its enforcement was not insisted upon. A discreet silence was maintained throughout the meeting respecting the number who had not paid, but it was understood that between twenty and thirty had refused. Their arrears had been paid privately with a view to making the way clear for another rate. A rate of one penny was proposed, to which an amendment was moved by the Rev. J. A. Chamberlain, Independent—

That as the compulsory imposition of Church-rates upon Dissenters is opposed to justice and morality, this meeting is of opinion that the churchwardens should propose some other mode of obtaining the requisite funds.

This motion was supported by the usual arguments, but it was evident from the strong efforts which had been put forth, and the character of the meeting, that many were there merely to be counted, and not to weigh arguments. Those who know what sort of influences may be brought to bear upon village life, need not be told that the conflict is simply one of might against right—an unequal one truly—but injustice cannot always triumph. The rate was subsequently carried by 32 votes against 16.

GENERAL BODY OF THE THREE DENOMINATIONS.—The annual meeting of this body was held at the Congregational Library, Finsbury, on Tuesday, April 11th, when the Rev. W. Brock, D.D., was elected secretary for the ensuing three years.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD.—The annual meeting was held at the Congregational Library, Finsbury, on Tuesday, April 11th, when the Rev. S. McAll was elected chairman, and the Rev. J. S. Pearse, deputy-chairman, for the ensuing year. The Revs. R. Ashton and J. Vale Mummery were re-elected secretaries.

THE NORWICH MONASTERY.—In the Court of Arches, on Monday, Dr. Robinson, the Surrogate, granted an application made on behalf of the Bishop of Norwich in connection with the proceedings at the Norwich Monastery. At his lordship's request, a monition requiring the Rev. Mr. Drury to refrain from taking part in the services at the monastery was filed.

BUNHILL-FIELDS.—We regret to learn from the *Patriot* that the two interviews of a deputation of the City Lands Committee with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have had no result. Our contemporary says the Ecclesiastical Commissioners evidently want money for the ground. The Finsbury estate will yield them at once a rental of some 60,000*l.* or 70,000*l.* a year, but still their cry is "Give."

CHURCH VOLUNTARYISM AT MILTON, NEAR SITTINGBOURNE.—The Rev. C. Robinson, incumbent of Holy Trinity, Milton, called a meeting of his congregation a few days ago, to consider a proposition "to do away with pew-rents, charity sermons, and, as far as possible, with printed subscription lists; and in their place to have a collection after every service on the first day of the week." There was some difference of opinion on the subject, it being contended that the pew-rent system had worked well, while they had 500 free sittings in the church. A resolution to try the experiment for one year was eventually carried by 22 to 15.

THE FUTURE OF ROME.—The *Weekly Register*, the organ of the Romish body in England, referring to the late discussions in the French Senate, says that the speeches of the Imperial legislators establish three things:—1. The French army of occupation will be withdrawn. 2. A revolution will thereupon very likely break out in Rome. 3. The French Government in that case reserves to itself full liberty of action. "Such," says the *Register*, "are the data on which the most formidable problem of the day hinges."

COLONIAL BISHOPS.—In a letter to a contemporary the Rev. C. Davis, of Nailsworth, observes "that if the Bishop of Capetown should ordain men for Natal diocese, sec. 4 of 59 George III., c. 61 (appended to Hodges' Instructions), would impose life-long disabilities upon them if the ordinations were held outside the diocese of Capetown; except at the request of Bishop Colenso, pursuant to 16 and 17 Victoria, c. 49. He also states that sec. 3 of 59 George III., c. 60, would allow the four Archbishops to inhibit all future ordainees of Bishop Colenso from a legal capacity to officiate in England and Ireland."

NEW HINDU RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT AT MADRAS.—A Veda-Samaj, corresponding to the Brahmo-Samaj of Bengal, has been formed at Madras. Its chief object is to encourage a "pure theism free from superstitious absurdities." The members are to observe existing ceremonies only when they are indispensable, or when their omission would hurt the feelings of Hindus so as to be prejudicial to the interests of the Veda-Samaj; they are gradually to give up all distinctions and amalgamate the different branches of the same caste; they are to disregard sectarianism, and tolerate the views of strangers; they are never to encourage nautches, or violate the laws of justice, veracity, temperance, and chastity; they are to encourage the remarriage of widows and discourage early marriages; they are to have but one wife; and they are to advance the cause of female and general education. These, with a few less important conditions, form the covenant which the members have to make.—*Homeward Mail*, March 29.

THE BISHOP OF NATAL AND HIS SALARY.—The salaries of the colonial bishops are for the most part provided from "The Colonial Bishops' Fund," which is supposed to be invested in the names of the four following trustees—the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Vice-Chancellor Page Wood, Archdeacon Hale, and

Mr. Hubbard, M.P. It was of course anticipated that, as soon as the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council declared the whole of the late proceedings of the Bishop of Capetown to be null and void in law, the salary of the Bishop of Natal, which was being withheld while the proceedings were pending against him, would be paid. The council, however, who have the management of the fund, have announced, through their solicitors, that they are not prepared to pay the arrears of salary. The question, therefore, is not yet settled, and another exciting legal contest may possibly take place in a new arena.

MARRIAGES AT CHURCH AND CHAPEL.—The Dissenters' Marriage Act came into operation in 1841. In that year 114,371 marriages were celebrated in the parish churches of England and Wales, and 8,125 couples took advantage of the permission accorded by the new law to get married at licensed chapels or in registrars' offices. The following figures will show the manner in which the act has operated, and the gradual alteration of the proportion between those who are married at church and chapel; the numbers for 1863 have not yet been published:—

	Not in Church of England.	Established Church.	Roman Catholics.	Other Denomi- nations.	Regis- trars' Offices.
1846	130,509	15,155	3,027	7,669	4,167
1851	130,958	23,248	6,570	9,540	6,813
1856	133,619	25,718	7,527	9,710	8,097
1861	130,697	33,009	7,782	13,182	11,725
1862	129,733	34,227	7,345	13,870	12,723

Thus it appears that in 1846 the marriages not performed in the Established churches were not quite ten per cent. of the whole number; in 1862 they were more than twenty per cent. It is remarkable that, while the number of marriages celebrated in the parish churches have fallen off because people of other denominations have used their own places of worship, the number of Roman Catholic marriages also seems to have diminished during the last decade. This does not look as though the Catholics were on the increase.—*Patriot.*

SUNDAY RECREATION.—At a public meeting in Glasgow on Monday night it was agreed to memorialise the Town Council to take steps for providing a public park in the north-east quarter of the city. Dr. Norman Macleod was one of the speakers, and in the course of his remarks on public parks, said he liked to see men walking there on week-days, and he liked to see working men taking a quiet walk there on the Sunday evening. It was his greatest delight to see that. Let no man suppose he did not value the Sunday: he valued it with his heart, soul, and strength; he valued it as a day of rest from bodily labour; he valued it, above all, as a day of worship, when Christian men could meet together as such for the worship of God. But was he to be told that a working man taking a quiet walk with his wife and family on a Sunday evening was inconsistent with the design of the Lord's-day, which was rest for his body and mind, and with the worship of God? While he valued a north-east park, and had no doubt they would get it, there were a great many densely-peopled places which would be very far from that park or any park. What were they then to do with the dense population in such places? There was a great want of places where the children could play—where young men could go without travelling a great distance, and have a game at quoits, and where a man, instead of scratching his back at a close-mouth, could sit down on a bench and take his pipe with his fellows. (Great applause.)—*Edinburgh Courant.*

### Religious Intelligence.

#### THE FREE CHURCHES OF LONDON AND CHRISTIAN WORK.

##### X.

###### CRAVEN CHAPEL AND ITS INSTITUTIONS.

Craven Chapel is inseparably associated with the name and work of Dr. Leischild, who, for the space of fifteen years, presided over the congregation of that well-known place of worship, and was the instrument of building up a very numerous and influential church there. It is situated in Marshall-street, near the eastern junction of Oxford-street and Regent-street. On the venerable Doctor's retirement in 1853, he was succeeded by the Rev. John Graham, of Dublin, who, after an acceptable pastorate of nine years, felt it his duty to accept the oversight of Pitt-street Chapel, Sydney, vacant by the decease of Dr. Ross. After an interregnum of about twelve months, the Rev. R. D. Wilson, of Birmingham, was invited to become the minister of this important Congregational church, and preached his first sermon in Craven Chapel, on Sunday, the 19th of Feb. last. This commodious place of worship is capable of seating 1,400 persons. The number of church-members at the close of last year was about 850.

Though situated in the heart of the West-end, Craven Chapel is almost on the line of demarcation between St. Giles's and St. James's. On the west side is Regent-street, on the north Oxford-street, while in the rear is that large district of narrow and over-crowded streets, which, stretching away in a

south-easterly direction, culminates in the Seven Dials. Bloomsbury Chapel and Craven Chapel stand at opposite ends of this little-known and uninviting region, not only to bear their testimony on behalf of Christianity, but to shed from either extremity the light of the Gospel over a spiritually-benighted neighbourhood. If the former is remarkable for its very efficient male agency for evangelistic purposes, the latter can lay claim to a valuable and extensive female organisation. Undoubtedly the working classes around Craven Chapel are neither so destitute, ignorant, nor crowded together as those in the neighbourhood of Bloomsbury Chapel. So far the field for mission work amongst them is more favourable. But in the one, as in the other case, there is much indifference to religion, great neglect of Divine worship, and wide-spread intemperance. A great part of the population consists of tailors and shoemakers employed by West-end houses, who suffer much privation from the scarcity of work in the winter season, and whose sedentary employment is favourable to thought and discussion. Amongst this class, whose intelligence is above the common, there is a considerable amount of infidelity. In this district, the Rev. John Batey, the special missionary of the Craven Christian Instruction Society, labours among some eight hundred families. Further to the south is a district occupied by the same class of mechanics, intermixed with small shopkeepers and costermongers. At one period this neighbourhood was exceedingly unhealthy. But here, as elsewhere, sanitary improvements have been carried on *pari passu* with missionary work. Many of the most wretched tenements have been pulled down, and some model houses built in their place. In this locality, the Rev. G. Jones, of the City Mission, has been at work for nearly a generation in connexion with Craven Chapel. Though his district consists only of 160 houses, their occupants comprise 2,500 people, an average of sixteen to each house—quite genteel compared with St. Giles's. For this population there are no less than fourteen public-houses, and nearly one-half of the shops are kept open on Sunday mornings. In addition to his customary work of visitation among the poor—a considerable number of whom have, through his instrumentality, become members of Christian churches—and among the sick and dying, Mr. Jones has a Mothers' Society, with which as many as 250 poor women are connected, and among the sick members of which 50% was in 1864 distributed out of their common fund. The congregation of Craven Chapel also support a Bible-woman, whose labours during the past year have been much blessed. She has weekly meetings to read the Scriptures, many persons have been induced to attend public worship, forty-one children have been sent to school, "husbands as well as wives have given up habits of sin in which they formerly indulged, others have refused to work on the Sabbath notwithstanding the injury to their worldly interests, and several mothers have given good evidence of having been converted to God." These details go to show how serviceable this simple agency may become in reaching the poor, and by means of clothing clubs, the timely relief of great distress, and circulating the Word of God, in laying the foundation for social and religious improvement.

The church connected with Craven Chapel does not, however, delegate all its missionary responsibilities to special agents. A large number of its members, mindful of the Apostolic injunction, "To do good and to communicate forget not," devote themselves to the evangelisation of the poor around them. This meritorious work is carried on under the auspices of a "Christian Instruction Society," which has been in operation for the long period of thirty-two years, during which time it has proved to be extensively useful throughout the surrounding populous district, and has exercised a great amount of influence among the thousands of people who crowd its dwellings. An extract from the report of the society for 1864 will indicate the variety of means employed, and the extent of the Christian work carried on:—"The neighbourhood is divided into fifty districts, which contain upwards of four thousand families, or some 16,000 persons, who are visited by sixty-three visitors at the present time [of whom a large number are female members of Craven Chapel], who during the past twelve months have circulated about 60,000 religious tracts on the Sabbath afternoons, in addition to more than 30,000 handbills given away on Sabbath mornings. Various open-air services have been held in the summer months. A special missionary is employed to follow up the Sabbath visitation, and attend to cases of particular interest. Religious services for the poor have been established on Sabbath and week-day evenings. There is also a Benevolent Fund, for relieving the distressed during the winter, and for providing Christmas dinners for the deserving—the sum of 27/- being so distributed to about two hundred families on the

last occasion. Numerous instances testify that backsliders have been sought out and reclaimed; the sceptic has been silenced, and brought to study the Scriptures; several have joined the church; and some on their death-beds have found peace in the Saviour, and died rejoicing in hope of eternal glory. The missionary reports that he had eight hundred families, or three thousand individuals, under constant visitation; has been with forty-four persons on their death-beds, and has induced many to attend public worship. He has conducted a Bible-class for young persons, and a prayer-meeting on Friday evenings, distributed four thousand tracts, and several copies of the Holy Scriptures. He holds two free services for the working classes, which are attended by about two hundred persons, besides several open-air services, through which some have been led to the sanctuary." All these operations in 1864 were carried on at an expense of 131/-, the missionary's salary included.

Craven Chapel has efficient Day and Sunday-schools. The former educates nearly four hundred children, who contribute in school pence considerably more than half of the expenses of the institution, and deposited last year nearly 300/- in the penny bank established for those "who wish to lay by a little out of their weekly earnings as a provision against the time of sickness, want of employment, or other necessity." The Sunday-schools contain about eight hundred children, who are instructed by sixty-five teachers. The fact that the scholars contributed 34/- last year for various missionary objects speaks well for their training. From the report for 1864 we extract a fact which supports this remark:—"The annual meeting on Ash Wednesday, of scholars and teachers formerly connected with the school, was encouraging, showing some of the results of past Sabbath-school instruction. Of the 260 present it was found that several were members of various churches, were Sabbath-school teachers, or otherwise engaged in some sphere of Christian usefulness." Another noteworthy fact! The school library contains the large number of 1,275 volumes, and during the past year there were 4,707 issues to the 414 readers who had access to the library.

In addition to the institutions already referred to, Craven Chapel has a Dorcas and Infant Friend Society, an Amicable Society (for assisting the poor and needy in distress, and imparting religious instruction in connection with that object), a Provident Clothing Society, and a Sick Visiting Society, besides auxiliaries to the various home and foreign missions.

Apart from pew subscriptions and quarterly collections, the congregation contributed the sum of 2,124/- during the year 1863 for various objects, of which no less than 1,200/- was for missionary operations in the neighbourhood of Craven Chapel. This is independent of liberal subscriptions to home and foreign missions and Independent colleges. Of the whole sum thus raised, no more than fifteen per cent. was expended upon foreign objects. Craven Chapel, therefore, cannot be said to favour the heathen abroad at the expense of the spiritually-destitute at home. For all purposes, and including the expenses of worship, the congregation raised, we believe, an aggregate of about 3,100/- during the past year.

#### SUNDAY-EVENING JUVENILE SERVICES, PENDLETON, MANCHESTER.

A friend at Manchester has favoured us with the following sketch of a very interesting movement at Pendleton for gathering together on Sunday evening the children who have ordinarily no occupation, and engaging their time and thoughts:—

The experiment here referred to is carried on in the Pendleton Club, which is an institution founded somewhat on the same principles and for the same uses as other working men's clubs in different parts of the country, and is situated in the neighbourhood of Manchester. The directors of the Club do not by virtue of their office take any charge of these engagements, but merely let the chief lecture-hall and other premises for such purposes. But several of these gentlemen are among the chief promoters of the movement. The chief responsibility of conducting the worship rests on four persons who may be styled its officers or superintendents. There are besides about twenty monitors, drawn from the labouring classes, whose chief duty is to preserve order, and the successful result which has been obtained has greatly resulted from their efforts.

The scheme was first undertaken with the view of profitably occupying the crowds of young people who are at liberty on the Sunday evening. There is plenty to engage them usefully in the early part of the day, but in the evening the usual places of worship with which they are connected are practically closed against them. There is no accommodation or oversight provided for them, and, indeed, if they attended church or chapel again, it would necessarily be of little profit—for in neither place does there seem to be any effort made to reach their wants and capacity of understanding.

Another reason for providing specially for the children was the abundant supply of vicious amuse-

ments and attractions presented to them. Moreover, as the neighbourhood we refer to is a comparatively new and growing one, there were not the materials for a Ragged-school of the ordinary kind. There being a difficulty in engaging the services of a large band of teachers, the promoters determined to conduct a service on congregational principles. The monitors as well as the audience belong to various religious communities. The only condition of entrance imposed on the children who attend, is cleanliness of person and dress. As the meeting is open on such conditions to all comers, there are many who pay us only passing visits, and perhaps have their curiosity satisfied by such occasional attendance. For this reason there is more irregularity than would prevail if the children were formed in classes, and each one was known to us by name. There are a few who are a nuisance to all the rest, but are retained and patiently cared for on account of repeated promises of improvement. As regards discipline, we have scarcely had occasion to do more than reprove them openly and by name. In only a few instances have we found it necessary to remove the offenders, perhaps for offering insult to a monitor, and forbid them to come again excepting on condition of making apology.

The movement has progressed for about three years, having been commenced in the month of May, 1862. On the first night we numbered forty to fifty, in a room capable of seating 108. 180. But in a few weeks the room became crowded, and larger accommodation was supplied by throwing open the adjoining room. After the lapse of a few months we were as much inconvenienced as formerly for room, and we then moved to the large lecture-hall of the same building, which seats comfortably 500 persons. Among a large number like this, of different ages, there is of course a very varied capacity. We believe, that in many instances the whole of the children of a family attend our service. There are some seven or eight years of age, a few of these perhaps nursing a little one, while others are fourteen to sixteen or eighteen years old. They are, therefore, divided into two congregations, according to their age—the younger occupying the old premises and the elder the lecture-hall.

During the past five months, from September till March, the total attendance has never fallen under 600; on some occasions it has been over 700. In our case, as well as in Sunday-schools, the numbers fluctuate. The fine summer evenings attract many into the open air, but the lowest attendance during the past summer was 400. The doors are opened at a quarter-past six, and the service commences at half-past, and closes at half-past seven, thus occupying an hour. But the service is divided and varied in this fashion:—for about five minutes there may be singing, reading of the Bible; then there is a chant, reading of the commandments, with responses by the children, and extempore prayer; afterwards singing, and an address of about twenty minutes; and subsequently two verses of the Evening Hymn may be sung, and the Lord's prayer repeated by all. Happily we have found a plentiful supply of lay friends who are well able and willing to deliver the address, and the other parts of the service are taken in turn by the officers of the place. In reading the Bible we take a consecutive history, like that of David, Joseph, &c. The gentleman who plays the harmonium attends one evening in the week to practise singing with about twenty selected voices who form the choir. Half-an-hour previous to opening the hall for worship, the monitors attend to hear the children repeat a lesson of ten to twelve lines selected from the Scriptures on the previous Sunday to be learnt by heart. The children who do this, are entitled to borrow a book for the week's reading from a library which has been carefully selected and adapted to them. During the past three months the numbers of those who have succeeded in learning the lesson has varied from 120 to 150. Many pleasing incidents arising out of this practice might be related, and we think a taste for reading has, in many cases, been induced by it. There is a social gathering, for tea and amusement at every Christmas time, towards the expense of which the children pay about one half and the entertainment is of an instructive and improving kind. This is all that is done beyond the personal interest taken by the monitors to secure their attendance.

Indeed, all the attractions on the score of novelty must, during three years, have passed away, and we think it fair to believe that the interest is sustained through the pleasure the children find in attending. It is certain that very few of them went formerly anywhere for good. The condition of trade and employment is somewhat improved since 1862 and 1863; but looking at the large numbers who have continued to attend ever since the formation of the service, and who have thus grown up almost from childhood to youth, cleaner in their persons, more careful of their dress and manners, and more obedient and orderly in their habits, to say nothing of higher influence for good, we are happy to think it is attributable to the care and discipline exercised on them during these Sunday-evening services.

**SURREY MISSION SOCIETY.**—The sixty-eighth annual meeting of the Surrey Mission Society was held at Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle, April 6th. The order of the services was owing to circumstances reversed. The public meeting was held in the lecture-room, in the afternoon, at three o'clock, John Churchill, Esq., in the chair. The report, which was read by the Rev. R. Ashton, was of a very encouraging character. Upwards of forty villages and hamlets are visited by seven evangelists, and about fifty services are conducted every week, in addition

to house-to-house visitation. The meeting was addressed by the Revs. J. Hart, of Guildford, D. Jones, of Brixton, J. W. Richardson, of Dulwich, and by Messrs. Moss, Leete, and Heal, agents of the society. The Rev. Charles Stanfield has been compelled to resign his office as secretary, and the Rev. J. M. Soule has resumed his post at the urgent request of the committee. In the evening, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon preached for the society a very appropriate sermon, and commended the society warmly to the sympathy of his people. The Rev. A. E. Lord, of Hersham, conducted the devotional part of the services.

**SOUTHWARK.**—**DEVERELL-STREET CHAPEL.**—Services have been held in connection with the settlement of the Rev. Reuben Seddon, late of Smallbridge, Rochdale, as pastor of the church here. On Tuesday, the 21st ult., a large company partook of tea in the very commodious schoolroom adjoining the chapel, after which the service was held in the chapel. The Rev. W. A. Eassery conducted the opening devotional exercises; the Rev. J. P. Turquand delivered the introductory discourse; the Rev. George Rose offered the recognition prayer, and the Rev. Dr. Waddington addressed the pastor. The following ministers also were present and took part in the proceedings:—the Revs. J. de Kewer Williams, D. B. Morris, Isaac Doxsey (Baptist), James Matthews, T. Stephenson, and J. Sinclair. From a document read by Mr. J. T. Oakley, one of the deacons, it appears that Mr. Seddon has been labouring at Deverell-street for six months. It was stated that his labours have been abundant, and followed with a rich blessing. Thirty-nine members have been added to the church. This church was formerly a Wesleyan Reform Church, but several years ago severed itself from that connexion; since which time it has been a nondescript church, though adopting the Congregational polity. Under Mr. Seddon's leadership, the church is about to give up its isolation, and at once seek recognition by the Congregational Union. The church numbers now about 200 members, the Sunday-school about 500 scholars, and there is an average Sunday-evening congregation of at least 600, which is still gradually increasing. On Sunday evening week, the Rev. Dr. Vaughan preached the sermon to the people in connection with the recognition services. The chapel, which will accommodate 800 persons, was very nearly full.

The Rev. Thomas Drew, of Bitton, near Bristol, has accepted a unanimous invitation from the Independent church in Shepton Mallet.

**BELGRAVE CHAPEL, LEEDS.**—The Rev. Mr. McAll, of Doncaster, has accepted an invitation to become the minister of Belgrave Chapel, as the successor of the Rev. G. W. Conder.

**SOUTH SHIELDS.**—Mr. Edwin Baker, of Springhill College, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the church assembling in Wallis-street Independent Chapel, South Shields.

**WEST COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT.**—**PRESENTATION TO THE REV. T. MANN.**—This presentation, on behalf of which an appeal was made some months since in the columns of this paper by the Rev. T. Binney, has just been made to Mr. Mann. The sum of 180*l.*, clear of all expenses, has been handed to him by a deputation from the committee through whose exertions the money has been raised. The committee are thankful to the many friends who have aided them in achieving this result.

**NORTH END, FINCHLEY.**—The Congregational church at North-end, Finchley, was opened for Divine service on Thursday last. The Rev. Newman Hall preached in the morning, and the Rev. Thomas Binney in the evening. The church is a very handsome building with a spire, and cost between 3,000*l.* and 4,000*l.* The total value of the property, including a very excellent school and the site—the latter being free gift—is about 6,000*l.*, and the exceedingly gratifying announcement was made, before the collection at the morning service, that the whole of this had been defrayed, and that the contents of the collecting-boxes would be devoted towards building a parsonage-house, and a house for the schoolmaster. Between the services a repast was served in the schoolroom, and Mr. Puget, who presided, promised to give a site for the schoolmaster's house. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. N. Hall, H. R. Reynolds, of Cheshunt College, M. Wilks, E. White, T. Hill, late of Cheshunt, the pastor of the church, and Mr. Eusebius Smith. The congregation have adopted the liturgical form of worship, not, however, to the entire exclusion of free prayer, and this arrangement was the subject of a slight difference of opinion among the speakers, Mr. Wilks being rather against it, and Mr. White warmly defending it. The congregations were large, both morning and evening. The church is made to accommodate about five hundred.

**HORTON-LANE CHAPEL, BRADFORD.**—The Sunday-school anniversary took place on the 26th of March, when the Rev. T. W. Aveling, of London, preached two practical heart-stirring sermons. In the afternoon of the same day Mr. Samuel Walker addressed the Sunday-scholars from Horton-lane, Borough West, and Little Horton Schools. The collections amounted to about 95*l.* A most successful series of lectures and readings, or other social entertainments, had been given at intervals of a fortnight during the past winter in the Horton-lane Lecture-hall, under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement Society. In every respect the result has been most satisfactory, the large room having been well filled each time, and the various entertainments very excellent. The series was brought to a close on Tuesday evening last, when a concert was given by the choir of the chapel, under the conductorship of Mr. William Jackson. A number of solos and glees were gone through in a

style which, if the applause and encores which followed testify anything, was all that could be wished. The selection was unusually well made, combining popularity with musical excellence. The Rev. Dr. Campbell presided, and the room was quite crowded. Votes of thanks were passed to the singers and to the secretary of the society, Mr. J. A. Clapham, who was the author and principal promoter of the whole series.

**COTTINGLEY, YORKSHIRE.**—In this little village, which is situated near Bingley, there was great rejoicing on Tuesday week in connection with a new Town Hall, which singular to say, has been built to answer the purposes of a day school, a Sunday-school, a mechanics' institute, a preaching-room, and a Town Hall—all in one! The building, which is in the Italian style of architecture, and possesses a very handsome exterior, stands in a conspicuous position on an elevated site, which slopes backward from the front, so as to admit of a schoolroom underneath the main building forty by thirty-six feet. Above it is the hall itself, which is sixty-one by thirty-six feet with a gallery extended across the entrance end, under which are placed two class-rooms each twenty-one by sixteen feet with entrances in the body of the hall behind. At the opposite end is a platform raised a little above the floor, on which is placed a pulpit. The land was generously given by W. Ferrand, Esq., M.P., and John Hollings, Esq. The cost of the new building was 1,340*l.*, of which nearly 1,100*l.* had been subscribed by the opening day, friends in the neighbouring towns of Bradford, Halifax, Saltaire, &c., giving liberally. The opening proceedings were commenced by a sermon, which was preached in the hall by the Rev. Dr. Campbell, of Bradford, who selected for his text part of the 8th verse of the third chapter of Ephesians, "The unsearchable riches of Christ." The room was crowded, and the earnest words of exhortation and encouragement were most attentively listened to. A tea-meeting was afterwards held in the schoolroom underneath the hall, and the number of persons who flocked to partake of it was so large that they could only be accommodated at four sittings, nearly 500 being present. A crowded public meeting followed, presided over, in the absence of Mr. Ferrand, by John Crosley, Esq., of Halifax, who had given 100*l.* to the undertaking. The meeting having been opened in the usual way, Mr. Thomas Baines, of Stock House, to whose disinterested perseverance and liberality the success of the enterprise has been largely indebted, presented a report in connection with the building. The Vicar of Bingley (Mr. Irwin) had repeatedly promised to be with them; but when the bills were just ready for printing, he received a note from him saying that parochial and family duties would prevent him from attending. He simply mentioned that to show that they had tried to have a full and fair representation of the various denominations on the platform on that occasion. The chairman then delivered an address, in the course of which he praised the inhabitants of the village for their liberality. The Rev. J. P. Chown followed with a stirring speech, and was succeeded by Dr. Campbell, Mr. J. Laycock, Mr. Pollard, and Mr. W. E. Glyde, of Saltaire. The net profits from the tea were 25*l.*, and the collections in the afternoon and evening realised 40*l.* The services were well attended and duly appreciated, and the debt has now been reduced to 90*l.*, which, it is hoped, will soon be raised. The population of the village is only about 700, and they have contributed 45*l.* towards the new building.

**STRETFORD, NEAR MANCHESTER.**—On Wednesday evening there was a crowded and enthusiastic meeting in the schoolroom attached to the Congregational church, Stretford, near Manchester, to witness a series of presentations to the Rev. John Simson, who is retiring from the pastorate after thirteen years' service. The schoolroom was crowded. There must have been more than 300 present, comprising most of the influential Congregationalists of the locality; and upon the platform were numerous ministers and friends from various parts of the district. Sir James Watts, of Abney Hall, was in the chair. Mr. Baker, the senior deacon, first came forward to present an address from the church to the Rev. John Simson. The address was handed to Mr. Simson amidst loud applause. Mr. Wilson, another deacon, said he had been deputed by the church and congregation to express to their beloved pastor now leaving them their sentiments in the substantial form referred to in the address. The present meeting, and no doubt the hearts of those composing the meeting, were a proof clear and strong that Mr. Simson, during his ministry, had preached God's Word faithfully. He had now, in the name of the church and congregation, to ask Mr. Simson to accept of a purse containing 250*l.*, as an expression of gratitude, esteem, and affection. (The elegantly-worked purse was then presented, amidst loud applause.) Mr. Adams, superintendent of the Sunday-school, said the scholars had subscribed to purchase a timepiece, which he had now to present to Mr. Simson. The timepiece bore this inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. John Simson by the scholars of the Stretford Congregational Sunday-school, on the occasion of his retiring from the pastorate of the church, accompanied with a purse of 250*l.*, subscribed by the congregation and friends in token of their esteem, March 29, 1862." The timepiece—a very elegant ornament—was presented amidst loud applause. The Rev. John Simson was very warmly received. He said he had, first of all, to express his acknowledgments for the sincere and affectionate address, and for the substantial and munificent offering that accompanied it. With the grateful recollection he should cherish of the proceedings, he should connect other acts of

kindness from his people. He would associate with his own congregation, in his acknowledgements, those other friends not of the congregation, and in some cases not of their denomination, who had joined in the purposes of the evening. It was a comfort to him, in leaving Stretford, to know that he possessed the goodwill and esteem of those who belonged to other sections of the Christian Church. Glad he was, too, that he had not lost the love of the young people. The step he had taken in resigning the pastorate had forced itself upon him as a thing of necessity, and as the only right course he could take. The retrospect of thirteen years afforded him much to be thankful for. He had had the pleasure of seeing the church grow from a county union station to a free and tolerably strong church. He had seen this beautiful place of worship built on the same site as that occupied by the former place of worship. He left with the full persuasion that there was strength there, that much good would be done, and that it would be a growing cause for many years to come. The Rev. Watson Smith, and the Rev. A. Thomson, M.A., the Rev. Professor Newth, and others, gave the warmest testimony to the worth and usefulness of Mr. Simson.

### Correspondence.

#### MISSION CHAPELS IN LONDON.—MR. MORLEY'S CHALLENGE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I do not think the severe remarks made by your correspondent, "Pro Deo et Patria," relative to the reception of Mr. Morley's munificent offer to charge himself with one third of the cost of twelve mission chapels in London, are wholly deserved. I agree with him that there must be some lack of Christian zeal on the part of London churches, when so noble an offer falls still born, but I would fain believe also that the absence of a suitable response is partly due to want of organisation, and a difficulty in seeing how the active sympathy of London Christians may find expression in such cases. "What's everybody's business is nobody's business," is a proverb which explains a great deal. Our Independency has its disadvantages—and this want of articulation is one of them. Perhaps Nonconformist newspapers are, under present circumstances, best adapted to quickly remedy this defect, and in that view, I would ask that this subject might be ventilated in your columns.

Now what is Mr. Morley's challenge? For I doubt if it is generally or sufficiently known. He proposes, as I understand, to pay one-third of the expense of twelve mission chapels in London, each one to cost no more than £500., provided the London Congregational Chapel Building Society will pay the second third, and that the remainder is raised elsewhere. There is already one of these model mission chapels erected at Dalston, and opened last November at a cost of £1,650. It seats 400 people (when galleries shall be built, 800), has a schoolroom attached, and already a very good congregation. In the recent report of the London Congregational Association, which I find in your columns, it is stated:—"Already there is a settled congregation, a Sunday-school with twenty teachers and 160 scholars, public lectures and religious services during the week, and a fair prospect of that the mission will be self-supporting in a few years." It may, therefore, be concluded that this chapel will become a permanent centre of evangelistic influence in that poor and populous neighbourhood. Multiply Dalston Chapel twelve-fold, and we get some idea of what is involved in Mr. Morley's challenge! It is just a proposal to plant so many churches in the wilderness—to occupy, in the interest of religion, waste places to which there is no natural attraction. The whole of these mission chapels might be planted in the East of London, and there would still be room for dozens more. If, therefore, there is the right Christian spirit amongst the Independents of London, this noble offer will be—must be—met.

The London Congregational Chapel Building Society have consented to take their share of this work if properly supported by the public, and it remains to be seen what will be done by others. Here, then, is the chance of planting eight such mission churches as are in operation at Dalston for £500.—it seems some four have been already arranged for £4,000. Is this a large sum, apart from all other claims, to be subscribed by the Congregationalists of London? Why it would only be about 25. a piece for each of the 160 churches north of the Thames! And, I would ask, is not this the work of the churches? Ought our genteel Dissenters in the wide belt of our suburban districts to be living lives of sloth, year by year quitting populous neighbourhoods, leaving Christianity there to shift for itself, and paying no regard even to such generous offers as Mr. Morley has made?

I agree with your correspondent that if this challenge is not speedily and cordially taken up, it will be a scandalous disgrace. For what is it? It is the proposal of a single individual to bear the heaviest share of the cost of a scheme for carrying Christian institutions into the very heart of our most destitute districts—for taking the Gospel to many thousands of people who have scarcely heard of it. Let the public attention be fixed upon it as a matter of conscience. Why should not the Board of Congregational Ministers meet, and formally and emphatically recommend the carrying out of Mr. Morley's plan? Surely this is just one of those grand objects which their organisation could legitimately promote! Or suppose that all our London churches were for once to suspend the usual routine of their church meetings, and each one specially discuss, among its own members, what was its duty in relation to the heathendom of London, and in what way it could contribute to carrying out Mr. Morley's scheme. I believe it would be a very healthy tonic—this calling forth of Christian sympathy as a church duty, and an agreeable change, I think, from the stereotyped mode of procedure at these monthly meetings.

At all events, I am satisfied that the free discussion of this definite and feasible scheme for multiplying our evangelistic agencies will bring about its realisation, and that if it is pressed home upon the Christian public and Christian churches, the year 1865 will not pass without Mr. Morley's noble challenge having been met.

I would, in conclusion, quote an extract from Mr. Morley's late speech at the annual meeting of the Congregational Association, believing that he, at least, will be listened to. He said: "For eighteen months there has been this offer of two-thirds of the cost of twelve mission chapels, and only one of these buildings has been begun. It is surprising to me that two or three churches have not clapped together in different localities, and said, 'At least we will secure one of these chapels.' I am sure this state of apathy would not have been seen if the destitution which I describe had been told of one of the South Sea Islands. . . . Some of our chapels at the east-end of London have been turned into workshops, some into Catholic schools, and, unfortunately, in many cases, new chapels have not been erected. There is ample scope for a dozen more chapels at once, and surely it is not very hard for a London congregation to raise £500. towards this object. I would really press it upon the churches as a matter of conscience. It would be a blessed thing if, before the end of the year, we could see these twelve churches built, and the scene of earnest operations."

I have thus spontaneously written this letter, from a strong desire that London Congregationalists should redeem themselves from a great reproach, but still more with an anxious wish that this Christian proposal may be accepted and carried out.

I am, Sir, yours &c.,  
A LONDON CONGREGATIONALIST.  
April 9, 1865.

#### CONSCIENCE CLAUSE OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—We often hear of the Conscience Clause of the Minutes of Council, and there is abroad a vague impression that by it children in village schools receiving Government support, are freed from religious teaching which is opposed to the conscience of their parents.

But at Medstead, Hants, children have recently been expelled from the village school supported by Government, for non-attendance on church services, and not repeating the Church Catechism.

On the other hand, there is hard by, and lying for signature, a petition, got up by the neighbouring clergy, that the said clause may be rescinded.

Still, to inquiries what the said Conscience Clause is, and what are its terms and provisions, no definite reply is forthcoming, although correct information of it might be of very great and extensive advantage. Wishing that you, Sir, or some of your readers, would supply the desired information.

I am, Sir, yours truly,  
J. M. A.

[We gave a copy of the "Conscience Clause" in our number for November 30th of last year, but we now quote it again, adding that the Committee of the Privy Council enforce it only in the case of new schools. They require, that is to say, the clause to be inserted in all the trust-deeds of all new schools in districts where there is room for only one State-assisted school. They cannot insert it in old trust-deeds. If, however, Government education is to be continued, we hope that the rule will be good in all institutions whatsoever that are in receipt of aid from the proceeds of the general taxation of this country:—

#### THE CONSCIENCE CLAUSE.

And it is hereby declared that the instruction at the said school shall comprise, at least, the following branches of school learning—namely, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, Scripture history, and (in the case of girls) needlework; and it is hereby further declared that it shall be a fundamental regulation and practice of the said school that the Bible be read daily therein, and that no child shall be required to learn any Catechism or other religious formulary, or to attend any Sunday-school or place of worship to which respectively his or her parent, or other person having the custody of such child, shall, on religious ground object, but the selection of each Sunday-school and place of worship shall in all cases be left to the free choice of such parent or person, without the child's incurring thereby any loss of the benefits and privileges of the school, the trusts whereof are hereby declared.]

#### THE REV. F. D. MAURICE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me a few lines on the controversy with Mr. Maurice?

There seems to be an idea in Mr. Maurice's mind that the church and the nation ought to be identical—an idea at variance, I conceive, with Scripture and sound judgment. That the nation ought to be Christian, that is, every individual as a member of the nation, and every ruler as a ruler of the nation, I sincerely and earnestly believe, but that is quite a different thing from the nation being the church. My *beau ideal* of the church is certainly not so limited as to confine it to the nation; "I believe in the Holy Catholic Church," which ought to include not our nation only but the people of every nation under heaven, not as nations indeed but as individuals. The idea that the nation is the church, and the earthly head of the nation the earthly head of the church, has been most pernicious in practice as it is erroneous in theory. For my part, though a Presbyterian by education and from choice, I have much more sympathy with the ideal of the Roman Catholic Church under one head than that of national churches with separate governments, leading as it does to narrow and sectarian views, and preventing us receiving with open minds the experiences and teachings of Christians of other lands. The evils of Popery are not the result, I imagine, of having one spiritual head, but rather of the temporal element introduced by its peculiar connection with one nation. It is true the Jewish nation, according to the Jew, comprised the entire church, but then that system was avowedly one of preparation for a higher and wider system.

Honouring Mr. Maurice as I do, I am glad his attention has been turned to this subject, and hope he may either enlighten us of the Liberation Society or receive light from us.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

J. D.  
Croydon, 8th April, 1865.

#### NATIONAL HOLINESS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—In a letter signed "R. Masters Theobald," contained in your last week's paper, I find the following opinions expressed—"The true holiness of the nation and the true sacredness of the State are facts." I beg to ask in what sense that assertion is to be understood? Is the State sacred by virtue of its union with the Church? and is the nation holy, because the nation's government, laws, and institutions are professedly in harmony with God's laws? If the above reasons constitute a nation holy and a State sacred, individual holiness and personal consecration to God are of no practical importance. I cannot think that your correspondent intended to convey this meaning, but I respectfully submit that the language will bear this interpretation. It is because I cordially admire the general tenor of your correspondent's letter, and, also because I think that those who are so competent to teach the people should not express ideas capable of erroneous and mischievous interpretations, that I raise the question, and remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

H. J. O.

[We may take this opportunity of saying that Mr. Theobald's letter contained an unfortunate printer's error. The last sentence should have read thus:—"Mr. Maurice thinks that ideal is realised in the Church of England; I do not."—ED. *Noncon.*]

#### CHAPEL DEBTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I ask for space in your journal for a few words as to debts on chapels. This is really a subject of some importance to the interests of religion, as I think you will agree with me. The present system of building chapels as a speculation is becoming a positive nuisance, to say the least. Though I differ with Mr. Spurgeon in some things, I agree with him in this, that our chapels should be free of debt. With the errors of our churches in this respect, it is too late to differ, but it is open to us to make better regulations.

When a chapel is to be erected, it should be *subscribed for* before it is built. By the present system the minister and builder erect the building as a speculation, relying on public subscriptions. This is not creditable to religion, and it puts the pastor in a wrong position with his people. When the building is ready, Mr. Morley, or some other gentleman of notoriety and wealth, is asked to preside. The meaning of this is that he is expected to give a handsome donation, say not less than £100. Then tea-meetings and bazaars are resorted to, and the minister has to take a begging circuit. Many other schemes are resorted to, which really make the affair ridiculous, and lessen the dignity of religion. All this is, as I profoundly feel, to be deprecated, as utterly unbefitting the cause of Christianity.

But, Sir, this is not all. In some cases a *profligate expenditure* is made in ornaments and decorations. Besides this several of our modern chapels are scarcely distinguishable from parish churches. Where is all this to end? The poor are overlooked altogether, the whole thing being really a struggle to get up a living for the minister. My representations are under the mark, and I do trust that you will give this letter a place in your journal. The influence of the present system is bad, and that both inside and outside the Church. Instead of the pastor being engaged in visiting his flock, he is occupied in begging missions. This puts him in their power, begets a worldly state of mind, and unmans him for his spiritual duties. The world has its eyes open, and laughs at it, denouncing religion as a piece of priesthood, and in a sense rightly so. Now, if we want to "save souls," let us at once alter their system, for it is gross and vicious in all its phases. The tendency of modern times is to turn our chapels into theatres, and to make stages of our pulpits. We forget too frequently that God's House is erected for prayer and worship and edification in things spiritual. No offence will, as I trust, be given by this letter, but if it be, well and good, for the truth must be told.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

J. CULVERHOUSE.

6, Culmore-terrace, Peckham, March 29, 1865.

#### SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—We have lately had a series of most successful annual services in the north of England.

In the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, the Mayor presided, and the Rev. Canon Stowell, the Rev. W. Arnot, M.A., of Edinburgh, the Rev. Alexander Raleigh, of London, and others, took part.

In the Victoria Hall, Leeds, Mr. H. N. Myers presiding, and the Revs. J. Ross, J. P. Chown, &c., speakers.

In the Public Rooms, Hull, H. J. Atkinson, Mayor, in the chair. In the Music-hall, Sheffield, the Rev. the vicar in the chair. In St. George's Hall, Bradford, Mr. John Read presiding. We have held meetings, and in each place a social meeting on the following morning, at which committees have been formed to work out the application of our principles for these great centres.

We have also had in London lately two very important drawing-room meetings, and have had the honour and advantage to be helped in regard to them by our kind hosts, Mr. Walter Powell and Mr. Alexander M'Arthur, as well as by the Revs. Newman Hall, W. Arthur, John Harvard, Dr. King, and also the Rev. Canon Champneys, the Rev. W. Brock, the Rev. T. Binney, and the Rev. Alex. Raleigh.

Our annual meeting in Exeter Hall is fixed for the evening of Wednesday, the 3rd May; Sir Francis Crossley, Bart., M.P., has kindly consented to preside, and the Christian public will agree that no more fitting or consistent representative of our principles could be found.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

R. G. CATHER.

7, Adam-street, W.C., 4th April, 1865.

P.S.—On Easter Monday our annual meeting is to be held in St. George's Hall, Liverpool; and on the 19th April, in the City Hall, Glasgow; and on the 21st, in Edinburgh.

STATE OF LANCASHIRE.—Pauperism in the cotton-manufacturing districts is, we are gratified to report, still rapidly decreasing. On the 1st inst. there were 10,553 fewer persons in receipt of parochial relief than on the 4th of last month.

## OUR ARMAMENTS.

(From the *Herald of Peace*.)

Very edifying and surely very comforting to the British taxpayer, are the discussions which have recently taken place in Parliament and in the press on the question of our defences. Five or six years ago, the Government and the "services" contrived, by exciting paroxysms of the wildest alarm in the public mind, to induce the nation to open its purse wide, and let them dip their fingers into it *ad libitum*, without restriction or remonstrance. We were told that the peril was imminent, and that not a moment should be lost, by new guns, new ships, and new fortifications, to save the country from impending danger and dishonour. The case was one that admitted of no delay; for while we hesitated the enemy might be upon us like a strong man armed. Therefore reconstruct the navy with armoured ships, furnish them with the irresistible Armstrong guns, and surround our arsenals with enormous fortifications. Well, the money to do all this was granted by our representatives without stint; indeed we may say with the most lavish and unquestioning profusion. And now, what is the result? First, as to the navy, it was again and again asserted during the late debates on the Naval Estimates that, *after having spent 58,000,000/- in five years on that branch of the service alone, we have at this moment no navy that is good for anything.* This statement was made in the most confident manner by Sir John Pakington, Sir Morton Peto, and other great authorities. The *Daily News* sums up the revelations made by the former, himself an ex-First Lord of the Admiralty, in these words:—"Sir John Pakington, in the most deliberate and business-like manner, informs the committee through a series of what the French call 'interpellations' to the Secretary, that, according to the rumours that have reached him from the most authentic and trustworthy sources, we have at present two classes of iron-plated sea-going ships in course of construction, which may be thus described:—1. Ships that cannot live at sea in heavy weather; 2. Ships defenceless at both ends; in other words, ships that cannot float, and ships that cannot fight. Add to these a class of harbour ships, drawing twenty-six feet of water, and there is evidently nothing left to be desired. We have superannuated all our experienced practical ship-builders, and have got in their stead a dashing theoretical constructor, who is working his way through millions of public money to the discovery of an ideal ship that will both float and fight. Such, in a few words, and omitting technical details, are the materials furnished by the present Secretary to the Admiralty, and the late First Lord to the Committee of the Commons and to the country for meditation on the present condition of the British navy."

And as for the guns, if we may trust the solemn declarations of naval officers of great experience and reputation, the state of the case is this, that after about three thousand of them have been constructed, at an enormous expense, with a view to arm the navy with them, they are proved to be utterly untrustworthy and unserviceable, bursting, or getting out of order after very short use, and wanting in the precision of aim and the penetrating power which were supposed to be the very qualities for the sake of which we were thought justified in furnishing them to the navy at any cost, however great.

And how fares it with the fortifications, Lord Palmerston's pet scheme? Some of them have had to be abandoned because the site was ill-chosen, or no foundation could be found; the others are dragging their slow strength along, bidding fair to be years yet before they are near a state of completion; during which, of course, should anybody want to invade us, they can do so with impunity, if our safety depends upon the fortifications. The only thing that is certain about them is, that immense sums of money are being sunk in them year by year without any certainty, even according to the judgment of some of the foremost of our naval and military authorities, that they will be of the smallest use for the purpose for which they were designed. While it seems clear enough, that when they are finished such prodigious sums will be required to arm and to man them as will throw into the shade even the cost of their construction. "I doubt," said Sir Morton Peto, in a very able speech which he delivered in the House of Commons on the 9th of March, "whether the Government or the House had sufficiently considered the enormous cost of arming the works which had been projected for the protection of our dockyards and arsenals. He found that they would require no fewer than 1,944 guns, toward which we had as yet only twenty-one completed. Taking the average cost at 4,066/- each, these 1,944 guns would entail an expense of no less than 7,904,304/- But this was not all. Each gun ought to be supplied with at least 200 rounds of ammunition, and calculating each round at the very low price of 2/-, that would cost 2,720,000/- So that the armaments of these forts alone would necessitate an expenditure of 17,524,304/- But neither is this all. For it is estimated by those competent to judge of such matters that to man these works will require between 50,000 to 60,000 men.

Now, we beseech our readers to remark one supreme absurdity that marks these schemes. They were all undertaken and justified on the plea, that we were in instant and imminent danger of being invaded by the French. If any of our readers doubt this assertion, we can inundate them with proofs which we have at hand, taken from the speeches of our statesmen, and the articles of our leading journals. That was the one great bugaboo with which they so frightened John Bull, that he became utterly reckless about cost, and threw his purse into the lap of the services to help themselves at will. Solemn innuendos, mysterious allusions, and in many cases open and perfectly explicit averments, were made by men in high authority, tending to impress upon the public mind the conviction that our neighbours across the Channel were meditating some terrible *coup de main* against our country. Therefore, the cry was, let us be armed to the teeth; let our vessels be clad in complete panoply; let our coasts bristle with cannon, "like quills upon the fretful porcupine." And even men who were more sensible or more cautious insisted upon the same thing, on the ground that, however friendly other Powers might be, it did not become a great nation like this to depend for its safety on the forbearance of its neighbours. And yet it now appears that

ever since that season of panic, if any reliance is to be placed upon the very men who raised the panic, we have been absolutely depending upon the forbearance of our neighbours. During the whole of that time, and up to the present hour, according to their testimony, there are no ships, no guns, no fortifications ready. If, therefore, the Emperor Napoleon or the French people have really made up their minds to devour us, it must be admitted, at least, that they are uncommonly complaisant and accommodating enemies; for, instead of attacking us at a disadvantage when, as the alarmists assured us, we were wholly defenceless, they have been, with the most polite forbearance, deferring the invasion year after year, while we are blundering, on through innumerable costly and abortive experiments, to a state in which we can defy them.

There was one passage in Lord Clarence Paget's speech on the 14th of March to which the people of this country, if they have any sense left on this subject, will give heed. Sir John Pakington had referred to the Royal Alfred, one of a class of ships which he declared were, from faulty construction, worse than useless. "If she were ever sent into the Channel," were his words, "she would be in constant danger of breaking in two amidships, and sinking from sheer weakness of body and over-weighting of armour." In reply, Lord C. Paget, without attempting to defend the ships in question, said that they were hastily undertaken five years ago, in consequence of "the eloquent denunciations" of Sir John Pakington himself about the armour-ships of the French. "The fact was," continued the noble lord, "it was a time of panic, when they were positively driven by the House of Commons, and, he admitted, also by public opinion, to take these vessels and convert them into armour-plated ships, in order, as it was said, to put ourselves in a proper state of defence." Yes, no doubt it was a time of panic. But who created the panic? Who irritated public opinion by invidious references to France, and vague and ominous prophecies of coming evil? Why, these very men themselves, these officials, and ex-officials, and leading public men, who, claiming the character of statesmen, ought at least to have wisdom and calmness enough to abstain from so playing on the fears of the nation as to induce it, in sheer fright, to acquiesce in the squandering of its own money on crude contrivances that are in defiance of the simplest laws of mechanics. But let our readers mark well the process by which things are managed. These people in authority first excite the alarm, then, under the influence of the clamour which that alarm naturally produces, hasten to sink millions of the public money on preposterous constructions which only increase the danger they profess to avert; and when they are called to account for such folly and waste, they turn round and lay the fault at the door of the very panic which they themselves raised by their foolish and cowardly speeches. Like the father of evil, they first tempt men, and when they have yielded to the temptation, upbraid and reproach them.

Now, what is the moral of all this? Why, that the nation, if it is wise, will for the future refuse to allow itself to be victimised by these panic-mongers in high places.

## Postscript.

Wednesday, April 12, 1865.

## AMERICA.

(Via the City of London.)

NEW YORK, April 1 (Morning).

General Grant's army in front of Petersburg commenced moving on Wednesday, their place being supplied by troops from the north side of the James River. Sheridan co-operated in the movement. An infantry column crossed Hatcher's Run, on the Vaughan Road, meeting no opposition until within a short distance of Boydton Plank Road, where they drove back the Confederate pickets. Griffin's division advanced up the Quaker Road, where during the afternoon the Confederates charged them, but were repulsed with severe loss. The total Federal casualties are estimated at 250. The Federals captured 100 prisoners. Sheridan was last heard of at Dinwiddie Court-house, with the supposed intention of cutting the Southside Railroad. On Thursday morning Grant's army was in a line parallel and east of Boydton Plank Road, and west of Hatcher's Run. The Confederates were believed to be in strong force near Gravelly Run. A heavy engagement was expected. On Thursday firing was heard, but it was believed that the operations had been interrupted by rain.

Sherman's army was still resting. All was quiet in their front. Raleigh papers believe that Sherman will move towards Weidion.

General Thomas had joined Gillem at Knoxville and moved in the direction of Virginia. He had reached Greenville, and was building a railroad in his rear, keeping up a communication with Knoxville. The object of the expedition was believed to be to hold South-western Virginia, and to move on and capture Lynchburg.

The Confederates had repulsed the demonstration by Grierson's cavalry against Tupelo, Mississippi, Grierson retreating towards Memphis.

The Federals had burned and evacuated Dalton, Georgia.

The execution of the draught continued at New York without opposition, but interrupted from time to time for the mustering in of occasional volunteers. The New York Legislature had appropriated 30,000,000 dols. for the payment of bounties to recruits, and has authorised the Controller to raise the money by bonds in anticipation of its collection by tax of 2 per cent. upon all real and personal property in the State.

It is supposed there is an intention on the part of Texas to declare itself independent of the Southern Confederacy.

Mr. Simeon Draper, Customs' collector at New York, in his report of a recent visit to Savannah, states that most of the cotton captured with the city (38,500 bales) belonged to the Confederate Government; that although after it came into Federal possession some of the citizens commenced to attach fictitious marks to the bales, which General Sherman prohibited, he denies that any genuine

private marks have been obliterated, and states that the pleas of all rightful claimants will be duly considered.

The movement against Mobile commenced on the 18th. President Lincoln and Mr. Seward were still at City Point. Gold, 1514.

## CANADA.

QUEBEC, Mar 25.

A Cabinet Council was held yesterday. Three out of the four Ministers selected to proceed to England to confer with the Home Government on the crisis that has arisen in Canadian affairs declined on various grounds to accept the mission. Only Mr. Cartier, Attorney-General East (and in the French Canadian interest) consented. The executive are in a difficulty. A week or two must now elapse before further arrangements can be made. Parliament having been prematurely prorogued to allow of delegates proceeding to Europe, renders the position of the Administration the more embarrassing.

A very critical period has arrived for this country. The cry of "annexation" is again being raised. It is thought by some members of the Canadian Government that the report of the delegates upon their return from England will decide the fate of this portion of the empire. The public mind is very anxious and unsettled.

## LATEST CONTINENTAL NEWS.

The debate upon the Mexican question was continued yesterday in the French Corps Législatif. M. Picard sustained the views of the Opposition, and M. Rouher was the champion of the Government. The Minister stated, in the course of his speech, that the French troops would all return home "as soon as possible"; but we do not learn that he gave the Chamber any data on which to found a conjecture as to the nearness of the possibility. In a subsequent speech M. Rouher energetically denied that there is the slightest chance of a war between France and the United States. M. Rouher's speech was much applauded by the Chamber.

M. Rouher, in a subsequent speech, energetically repelled the anticipations of war with the United States. "France," he said, "has maintained a strict neutrality. The messages of President Lincoln indicate that the United States desire the maintenance of peace in the world. The United States do not forget that France has been their foster mother. France has not, under a regard for her security in Mexico, formed the impious wish that the civil war might be prolonged." M. Rouher maintained that the United States have no interest in annexing Mexico, for that would be to prepare forces for the South. "I consider, then, as phantoms," said the Minister in conclusion, "any anticipations of a conflict between France and America. No reason exists for apprehending war. Let the French flag remain a few months longer in Mexico. We have nothing to fear on that account."

The amendment of the Opposition was then rejected by 225 votes against 16 votes, and paragraph 16 of the Address was adopted.

THE RUSSIAN "PLAQUE."—The *Moniteur* of yesterday says:—"By information which has quite recently reached the Emperor's Government, it appears that the state of the public health tends more and more to improve at St. Petersburg. The disease which has prevailed there for some few months assumed at first the character of recurrent fever, and afterwards in a great number of cases that of typhoid fever, without presenting generally any particularly serious character. It has hitherto been severe scarcely anywhere else than in the hospitals. As to the Siberian plague, or malignant pestilence, the inroads of which at St. Petersburg have been announced by certain journals, no symptoms of it have been discovered in that city."

FEARFUL SCENE AT AN ELECTION MEETING—ROCKDALE, TUESDAY NIGHT.—To-day, in reply to a deputation, Mr. Potter said he was in favour of neither the Permissive Bill nor the Lord Chancellor's County Courts Bill. Mr. Potter addressed another meeting at night. Two or three thousand persons were present. Mr. Potter advocated a wide extension of the franchise, and said he would support a bill for manhood suffrage. Towards the close of the proceedings a panic nearly occurred. A gas-pipe broke, and the lights were turned out in an instant. Intense consternation and excitement were caused by this. Women and men were screaming, windows smashed to get out, and there was great rushing to the doors. The chairman implored the audience to remain quiet. Some only accepted the advice. Many of the persons present were severely bruised. I heard of no serious accident. While the confusion lasted an awful state of suspense and excitement prevailed. Had it not been for the presence of mind of the chairman and others, hundreds of persons might have been suffocated. After a time all were got out safely.—*Morning Star*.

## MARK-LANE—THIS DAY.

Fresh up to our market, to-day, the arrivals of English wheat were very moderate, both from Essex and Kent. The condition of the produce was but middling, and the trade ruled heavy, at Monday's decline in price of 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Only a moderate supply of foreign wheat was on the stands. The trade, however, was very dull for all qualities, and the rates current were about 1s. per quarter below the late highest point. Floating cargoes of grain were in slow request, at late rates. The barley trade ruled firm, at fully previous quotations. The supply of English produce on sale was small—of foreign, moderate. Malt changed hands to a very moderate extent, at late rates. The supply of oats on sale was very moderate. The trade for all descriptions ruled firm, and prices had an upward tendency. Beans and peas were very firm, at fully the rates current on Monday. The market was scantily supplied with both articles. For flour, there was a fair demand at full prices. The Corn Exchange will be closed on Friday next.

The Rev. J. Stock, of Devonport, has just published an address "to the people of England," headed "The Death of Slavery." The address is vigorously written, and is calculated to correct some prevalent mistakes. Copies may be had from the author at a halfpenny each, or three shillings per hundred (post free).

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# The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1865.

## SUMMARY.

If the present bright weather holds—summer having almost pushed the tardy spring aside—there is the promise of brilliant Easter holidays. Our national prospects are highly satisfactory. The revenue is buoyant; trade is for the most part prosperous. If the heavy fall in the value of cotton creates much embarrassment in the North, the pauperism of Lancashire is still steadily decreasing. The lock-out in the iron trade has ceased as a general measure, and is now confined to North and South Staffordshire. The iron-workers in the former division, though not universally, decline to go in except at the old rate of wages, while those of the latter refuse to return to work unless the masters consent to settle all future disputes by arbitration. They would strike to prevent strikes. The masters decline to meet the men on this ground, and thus matters remain.

The recent case of death from neglect and ill treatment in the Holborn Union has been followed by a greater scandal in connection with the St. Giles's Workhouse. An invalid named Gibson, has for some time been confined in a dark, underground ward, neglected by the paid head nurse and the pauper nurses, deprived of necessary comforts, and left to die by inches in circumstances of filth and squalor perfectly revolting. The facts relative to his inhuman treatment were only divulged by a fellow-pauper, who wrote a letter to the magistrate of the district. An inquiry into the case is still proceeding, but enough has come out to shock the public mind, and give rise to an indignant demand that the persons who are responsible for the cruel death of poor Gibson shall be tried for manslaughter. It does not seem that the Poor Law Board are to blame in this case—the St. Giles's Workhouse being governed, under a local act, by a select vestry, who have, on more than one occasion, successfully disputed the authority of the Board.

On Friday last the mortal remains of Richard Cobden were consigned to Lavington churchyard, amid demonstrations of grief and sympathy which were shared in by every considerable town in England. He was followed to the grave by a large section of the House of Commons, and a phalanx of statesmen, public men and personal friends, who comprised the *élite* of the Liberal party in this country. Every day brings fresh evidence of the universality of the public regret, and of the conviction that the untimely death of Mr. Cobden was a national loss which cannot be repaired. May those most intimately connected with him catch the mantle of the departed statesman and philanthropist! It is said that the Government will propose to make some public provision for the family of Mr. Cobden, and the mere suggestion has met with so cordial a response that it will, we have no doubt, be carried into effect.

Easter is likely to be no holiday to M.P.'s seeking re-election, and new candidates desiring to enter the next House of Commons. Rochdale, so justly proud of its late illustrious representative, is already in the throes of an election contest; and so close is the struggle for the vacant seat likely to be, that Mr. Bright has felt called upon to come forth from that retirement which, would at such a time, be congenial to his feelings, to advocate the claims of Mr. T. B. Potter, of Man-

chester, whom the Liberals have fixed upon as Mr. Cobden's successor. The Tories have put forward a Mr. Brett, Q.C., whose public claims upon the constituency are *nil*. But the party appear to have looked well after the register; and a very close contest is anticipated, unless the electors of Rochdale should be so wrought upon by a keen sense of the utter disgrace which would rest upon the borough by choosing a man to represent it who is opposed in principle to the entire policy of their late member, as triumphantly to carry Mr. Potter.

During the interesting debates which are still proceeding in the French Legislature, the Government have taken occasion to explain their views on two important questions of public policy. M. Vuitry said on their behalf that they wished the Church should be independent of the State as the State will be of the Church—each keeping in its proper sphere. At the same time they did not wish for the separation of Church and State—meaning, we presume, that the Imperial policy prefers that the clergy shall continue to be pensioners on the public purse. But the speaker dropped a hint that the laity had become their own masters, and it was desirable that the fact should be known. The amendment proposed by some members of the Opposition for the separation of Church and State was then withdrawn. Yesterday, M. Rouher, in a discussion on the Mexican question, denied that there was any serious difficulty between France and the United States. The anticipation of any conflict between these Powers was "a phantom," and there was no fear that the North would interfere to put down the Mexican empire. It is evident, however, that the rule of the Emperor Maximilian in that country is becoming precarious, notwithstanding the support he receives from France.

The latest news from Canada must be very embarrassing to the Home Government. They have forced upon the colonists a policy of defence against possible dangers, which the colonists are disposed to repudiate. The Canadians cannot quite see the merits of this great fortification scheme, unless we are disposed to pay for it. Mr. Cardwell announced last week that an official deputation was coming over to consult on measures which have been represented to the House of Commons as agreed to in common. It seems, however, that not only has the deputation not started for England, but that three of the four Ministers proposed as its members have declined to go at all. The public mind is said to be very anxious and unsettled, and the cry for annexation to the United States was again being raised. This critical state of things in Canada is mainly due to the folly and meddlesomeness of the Imperial Government.

## PROPOSED RE-ADJUSTMENT OF ELECTORAL MACHINERY.

ON Monday evening a meeting was held at the Rooms, Adam-street, Adelphi, to which many had looked forward with considerable interest, and which will unquestionably have the effect of stimulating thought upon a subject of high, if not urgent, national importance. The assembly, we believe, consisted principally of members of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, and of the Society for Promoting the Amendment of the Law. The special object of the meeting was to hear and discuss a paper prepared by Mr. Thomas Hare, "On such an organisation of the metropolitan electors as would call into exercise the knowledge and judgment of the constituencies, and as far as possible discourage all corrupt and pernicious influences." The report we have of Mr. Hare's paper and of the discussion which followed the reading of it, is necessarily much abridged—but the outline appears to be sufficiently correct to allow of forming a rough judgment of the plan proposed.

The end sought to be attained by the elaborate machinery which we shall presently describe, or, more correctly speaking, allow the *Star* reporter to describe for us, is, by a particular mode of voting to make the exercise of the franchise a more interesting duty and a more valuable right than it has been generally felt that it could become. We confess our mistrust, at the outset, of inspiring true political feeling into minds where it does not now exist, by any mere changes of electoral mechanism. We may be wrong—but, until better advised, we shall believe that if political truths and principles fail of eliciting public spirit to such an extent that about half the present metropolitan electors cannot be induced to vote at all, no plan of taking the votes will prove of much avail. We have no special admiration of the present plan. We believe it to be susceptible of considerable im-

provement. But the deficiency complained of is not the product of the plan, nor has it been always co-existent with it. Political indifference must, we fear, be traced to deeper causes than to methods of conducting elections. When there is anything really worth fighting for, the fighting will cease to be languid. So long as the difference to be decided by the votes of electors is generally and justly esteemed to be mainly nominal, the evil will not be met by merely methodical alterations.

But now to the plan itself, a description of which, lest we should fail to do justice to it, we extract from the columns of our morning contemporary.

His plan is this—London, Westminster, Southwark, Marylebone, Finsbury, Lambeth, the Tower Hamlets, and Greenwich, return eighteen members. If to these are added Middlesex and Surrey the ten constituencies which he defines as "metropolitan" return twenty-two members. The first step would be to invite all those who believe themselves, or whose friends believe, that they possess qualities which would render their services useful in Parliament, to become candidates. This he would do by having a candidate for the metropolitan constituencies, or any of them, on paying a sum of 50/- to the Chamberlain of London (to be applied in the payment of the expenses of the election), not liable to any further charge, a list of the candidates having made such payment to be published daily. This limit of the necessary charge would not affect any expenses which the candidates severally may think proper to incur in making known their principles or claims by meetings, addresses, or otherwise. He considers it probable that for the twenty-two seats there may be fifty or a hundred candidates, and the public spirit of every one he would put to test by having every vote given on paper, specifying the name or names of the candidate or candidates for whom it is given, such names being numbered successively 1, 2, 3, &c., the vote to be valid for one candidate only, taken according to such order. Every candidate for whom the number of votes given is equal to one twenty-second part of the total number of votes polled to be elected, and the papers exceeding that number on which his name occurs to be available for the next candidates named on them respectively and when no more candidates are found to have such twenty-second part, the remainder of the twenty-two seats to be filled by the candidates having the highest number of votes less than such twenty-second part. Mr. Hare explains this part of his proposition thus:—Suppose 88,000 votes were polled, 4,000 votes would be sufficient to elect a member; and suppose, also, the more popular candidates, having more than 4,000 votes, to poll as follows—A, 20,000, B, 15,000, C, 12,000, D, 10,000. The name of A would be cancelled on 16,000 papers, that of B, on 11,000, C, on 8,000, and D, on 6,000, all of which papers would become available for the next candidates named on them respectively, and would thus bring up to the number of 4,000 some of those lower on the poll. The 4,000 papers selected for the return of A, B, C, or D, would be determined on the principle of taking first those sent in by voters for that city or borough for which the respective person elected offered himself as a candidate; and next, or among the former class, if it alone exceed 4,000, those on whom the name of that person was combined with the smallest number of other names. When this process is exhausted, and supposing that nineteen members have completed their quotas, and that the candidates next on the poll stands thus:—W, 3,500; X, 3,000; Y, 2,000; Z, 1,000, the remaining candidates having obtained still fewer votes, the result would be that W, X, and Y, having the three comparative majorities, would be elected to complete the twenty-two members, and Z and the rest would be unsuccessful.

The first thing that strikes us in reference to this plan is that it looks well enough on paper, but in practice would be sure to break down. Increased interest in elections is not likely to be created by a process the working of which is entirely concealed, and the results of which would be too indirect for calculation beforehand. How is the *boni fides* and integrity of the returning officer and of his agents to be secured? In whose presence are the papers to be received and examined? Who is to constitute a check for each of the candidates? By whom are the several sums to be worked out? Who is to watch against the tampering with a sufficient number of the 80,000 papers to falsify the election in the case of several candidates? How is the constituency to be satisfied that a true result has been arrived at? The distribution of votes will need all the accuracy and the practised acumen of an accountant, and the public, unable to make out the figures for themselves, will never be convinced that they have not been cooked, for which, indeed, the plan seems to supply no end of facilities. If the object were to elect directors of a joint-stock company, would the shareholders approve this method of proceeding, and, in case of a result adverse to their wishes, be satisfied that it was fairly brought about? It is one thing to deal with large bodies of men on paper—it is quite another to deal with them as living and interested agents. No election could be satisfactorily conducted on this plan. From first to last it is open to all kinds of chicanery and fraud.

Talk of calling into exercise the knowledge and judgment of the constituencies by setting before them a list of from fifty to a hundred candidates, twenty-two of whom are to be selected, and placed in preferential rotation by eighty thousand electors—why what chance is there that one twentieth of the number would possess the requisite knowledge, or exercise a

discriminating judgment? Let it be remembered that the knowledge required in the supposed case is a knowledge of persons, and the judgment a judgment of character. Three-fourths of the candidates would probably be unknown to more than three-fourths of the constituency. It would be quite an undertaking to read and compare the addresses, even if no other steps were taken to ascertain who is who. A few notabilities would be certain to be returned, not on account of their political principles, but simply because they were notabilities. The election of the rest, if not, as is probable, governed by clever management, would be decided by the blindest chance. We much question whether the practical issue would not be considerably more damaging than favourable to representative institutions.

No, no; this is not our way out of the present system. A far better one than this, in our opinion, would be to give every elector in the United Kingdom, besides his local votes or vote, one vote also for a national representative. Suppose fifty of the smallest constituencies were extinguished, and the seats, instead of being locally filled, were filled by members imperially chosen. Suppose that every man, when he polled for his own local representatives, polled also for any one man that he desired to see in the House of Commons, and the fifty men to whose names the highest number of votes was given, sat as members for the whole country. You might have candidates duly announced or not—you might make each kingdom a separate constituency for this purpose or not—but you might be tolerably sure that each vote so given would indicate definite political attachment, and the seats thus filled could only be filled by men who enjoyed the confidence of large numbers—by really representative men.

We are afraid, however, that most of these ingenious plans are invented to evade a broad, direct, common-sense amendment of our electoral machinery. Our first business is to add new blood to the constituencies. Our next is to correct some of the most glaring inequalities of the present system. When these substantial matters are honestly taken in hand, there will be more reason and opportunity for arranging on a better basis an improved plan of taking votes at elections. But in any case, the method proposed by Mr. Hare appears to us far too complicated for practical purposes—and we feel quite sure that no statesman of sagacity or experience could be prevailed upon to embody it in a Bill, and present it for acceptance to the House of Commons.

#### MILITARY MOVEMENTS IN AMERICA.

A NEW, and we devoutly hope, a final series of engagements may be said to have commenced in the neighbourhood of Petersburg, and the Army of the Potowmac is once more active. The initiative was in this instance taken by General Lee. It may be fairly supposed that General Grant has been content, for some time past, to hold Lee to his ground, and give time and opportunity to Sherman to conduct the victorious Army of Tennessee through South Carolina, into the heart of North Carolina, and, after disposing of Johnson, Bragg, Hardee, and Hood, to unite with Grant in crushing the sole remaining Confederate army capable of resisting for the time being the Federal forces. But the inactivity which in Grant's case was masterly, by no means suited Lee's prospects. His chances were being steadily diminished by Sherman's advance. It became him, therefore, to make a determined effort without further delay to shake off his unflinching antagonist. He seems to have done so with all the judgment and spirit which the rather desperate nature of the enterprise would admit. An early morning surprise, a rapid and audacious assault, a dogged struggle of fifteen hours, and an utter failure of his main purpose, disclose to us far more significant hints as to his general position than his own despatch descriptive of the event. It comes out, for instance, that Lee, who deemed it imprudent to throw himself against Grant's lines when they were weaker than they now are, and when he himself was stronger, saw good reason to put aside the counsels of prudence in obedience, no doubt, to a more pressing necessity. It is clear also that with all the advantage gained in the commencement of the attack by the dash of his troops, he is unable to hold the forts which he wins, and, after a sanguinary encounter, fails to make any serious impression upon the army entrenched before him. To seize a fort or two, although it may show the quality of his men, can avail him nothing, even if he could retain what he seizes, unless he could thereby gain a key to Grant's position, for it is not by an isolated success of this kind that he would compel the Federal General to loose his hold. But, in fact, he was not strong enough to

make good his temporary success throughout the day on which it had been won—and whether he relinquished his gains because, according to his own statement, he could not retain them except at too great a sacrifice, or whether, according to General Grant's version of the same affair, his troops were driven from the places they had carried in the outset of the engagement, the inference is equally valid that General Lee so long as he occupies his present lines can hope for no favourable change from assuming the offensive.

Indeed, it seems tolerably clear that General Lee's attack was more than repelled, for before the day was out General Grant in his turn became the assailant, and succeeded in capturing some of the Confederate entrenchments, which Lee's troops made repeated efforts to retake, but which Grant still keeps. The latest telegrams show that the Federal General is hugging his antagonist closer, has commenced a general movement in concert with Sheridan, and has decisively repelled the attempts of the Confederates to prevent his advance. "A heavy engagement," it is said, "is expected," but, for the present, "the operations have been interrupted by rain."

Leaving the Army of the Potowmac, let us glance at that of Tennessee. We have had very contradictory accounts of what happened at Bentonville and at Averysboro', where Sherman is said to have suffered no small loss on the 16th and 19th of March. But Sherman is found congratulating his army on having on the 21st beaten "the concentrated armies of the enemy on their chosen ground," which, he says, "were fleeing in disorder, leaving their dead and wounded, and burning the bridges in their retreat." "The campaign," he adds, "has resulted in a glorious success." Assume, if you will, that Sherman's despatch is highly coloured, though it has not been his wont to deal in idle braggadocio, there yet remains the conclusive fact that Sherman, Schofield, and Terry have united their forces at Goldsboro', the strategical position at which they were aiming, and that Sherman is sufficiently at his ease to indulge his veteran troops with a few days' rest. That interval he himself seems to have employed in meeting Mr. Lincoln and Generals Grant and Sheridan at City Point—a most significant indication that the area of contest is becoming narrowed, and that, as the *Daily News* remarks, "the period of mere strategic marches is over, and, after years of disappointment, the final series of battles which are to decide Mr. Davis's gigantic experiment is indeed begun."

The issue, of course, is uncertain—in war no predictions can be made with assured confidence. But the signs are numerous and striking that the South has little chance of winning the bloody game.

Her strength is fairly exhausted—her population, disheartened—her purpose, crushed. She would have founded a great slave empire—she will be obliged to abolish slavery altogether. No doubt, her submission will be a sore trial to her pride—but long-protracted opposition, when once her remaining army is broken, will serve no purpose but that of increasing her sufferings. Let us hope that the end of this most sanguinary contest is at hand—and that when it is decided both North and South, chastened by the fiery ordeal through which they have passed, may appreciate more fully than they have ever done heretofore the truth that righteousness is the true basis of national greatness, and respect for law the best guarantee of national prosperity.

#### NOTES OF THE SESSION.

ON Thursday night the House of Commons had a third debate on Canadian defence. The question was raised anew by Lord Elcho, in a forcible speech, the drift of which was to inquire as to the extent of concurrence of the Canadian Ministry in the fortification scheme of our Government. That there might be no doubt on the subject, Lord Elcho quoted from a recent speech of Mr. Galt, the Finance Minister of Canada, who said that whatever expenditure that country incurred must be by the help of the Imperial credit—that the placing of gunboats on the lakes was an Imperial question—and that if England was prepared to vote no more than a petty sum of 50,000*l.*, he thought the best armament for Canada was no armament at all. After expressing his concurrence in their views, his lordship protested against a policy which might be preparing in Canada the grave either of the honour or the power of England. He was followed by Sir J. D. Hay, a high military authority, and well acquainted with Canada, who showed in detail the folly of the proposed fortifications, which the Americans could easily turn, and argued that the only true defence for our North American colonies was the fortification of Halifax and the holding the province of Nova Scotia. Mr. Buxton elaborately con-

tended that if Canada should think that it was for her interest that we should not take part in her land defences, our troops must be withdrawn, and we should be relieved from a most unpleasant predicament. He had not met with any sensible man who did not see that in commencing this great fortification scheme we were plunging into a sea of difficulty and expense to which no limit was visible.

To keep a little British army in Canada was like waving a red flag in the face of a bull. At any rate the Canadians had a right to be consulted, and their voice ought to be decisive on the question. Colonel Sykes followed up these arguments, and at length Mr. Adderly came to the rescue of the Government. He admitted that the Confederation scheme was at present a failure, owing to the opposition of the maritime provinces. Until that was settled the question of defence could not be fully determined. Then it would be carried out. But he warned the recusant provinces that, while holding back, they would not receive from England the same support in men and supplies as before. Mr. Cardwell eagerly clutched at Mr. Adderly's support, and deprecated the utterance of such discouraging language as he had heard, at a time when a Canadian deputation was coming over to discuss the question with the Home Government. He did not believe that the colonists were unwilling to do their duty. This is very different from the language formerly employed—which, as Mr. Kinglake said, induced himself and other members to vote for the Government scheme under the impression that it had been accepted by the Canadian Ministers. Mr. Cardwell's appeal *ad misericordiam* does not seem to have been effectual. After him rose Major Anson, whom General Peel described as a military authority of the highest order. This gallant officer said that he had taken considerable pains to ascertain the views of the officers who had been sent to Canada since the Trent affair took place; and he thought the House would be astonished at the concurrence of their opinions that Canada was utterly and hopelessly indefensible. If Canada was not defensible, we ought to withdraw our troops to-morrow. The debate was continued by Sir John Pakington—who complained that the House had been misled, and condemned the feeble and paltry policy of the Government, which he attributed to a division of opinion in the Cabinet—by General Peel, and other members. But the impression is gaining ground that the Canadians themselves will rescue us from the embarrassing position in which Lord Palmerston's Government have placed us, and refuse to incur the great expense which is demanded of them rather than proposed by themselves.

Mr. Villiers' Bill relative to the houseless poor of the metropolis has passed the House of Commons in a greatly improved shape. Not only are the police authorised to send all vagrants to the Union refuges, but the measure is to be permanent in its operation. It promises to effect a great revolution in the streets of London at night time, and to put an end to a great deal of imposture, while giving shelter to really houseless wanderers.

The status of colonial bishops, and the proposed extension of the Episcopacy in England, has been the subject of conversation in the House of Commons. Relative to the former, Mr. Cardwell promises to grant no more patents for creating colonial bishops till their exact legal position had been defined. To an appeal for a division of the diocese of Exeter, Sir G. Grey has prudently replied that it was a very large question. If a new bishop were created for Cornwall there would be a demand for new bishops in other quarters. That would entail a great expense. Four or five bishoprics would take from 20,000*l.* to 30,000*l.* a-year, which would have to be deducted from the funds which were now being spent in increasing the endowment of small livings and in providing additional clergy for populous districts. The Government, therefore, declines to move in the matter, and High-Churchmen, who regard bishops as the sheet-anchor of the Church, are greatly disappointed thereat.

The Commons have granted a select committee to examine the relations between masters and servants—that is, between workmen and their employers. It cannot be doubted that much valuable evidence may be collected by such a committee, which will help towards a solution of the strike and lock-out question without any legislative interference, which all admit to be impracticable.

Lord Shaftesbury's proposal that the poor of London who are evicted from their dwellings by new railways, &c., shall have eight weeks' notice, has been substantially adopted as a standing order by the House of Lords. But the notice is to be by placard, and not served on each householder. The Bishop of London took the opportunity of showing the magnitude of the evil which the new standing order is designed to

mitigate. He was informed by a clergyman, that in one parish in the City of London, in which one-third of the houses had been swept away, there was still no perceptible diminution in the number of the poor; while in another parish, in which the proportion of houses destroyed was even greater, the rates continued to be as high as before—thus showing that the number of poor in the parish remained undiminished. Under such circumstances, any efforts to provide for the spiritual destitution or education of the poor must be entirely unavailing. This is a very serious statement. His lordship pointed out the public danger that would arise, should pestilence visit the metropolis, from the fact that, owing to the constant demolition of dwellings, the houses inhabited by the poor are crowded by double the number of persons who ought to be in them. But the Bishop, as well as the bishop-maker, is at a loss for a remedy; and can only recommend the City Companies, who are so rich that they literally do not know what to do with their money, to lay out the funds at their disposal in erecting model lodging-houses.

On Friday both Houses of Parliament adjourned for the Easter recess.

#### RESERVE.

THE English, as every one knows, are an extremely reserved nation. So at least they are set down to be by the rest of the world. There must be some foundation in fact for an opinion so general. Like many other views, however, which pass current without being questioned, it embraces only a part of the truth. Measured by the frequency or the promptitude with which they speak on certain subjects, Englishmen are more reserved than most other civilised races. Estimated by what they say when they do speak, reserve by no means expresses their characteristic distinction. There may be a great scarcity of superfluous embellishment in his talk, and gushing sentiment may be conspicuous by its absence, but it does not belong to the habits of an average Englishman to keep anything back which concerns the matter in hand. The presumption is, rather, that he will both speak his mind, and do it in a downright and straightforward way.

The author of "Essays Written during Intervals of Business," gives expression to a feeling entertained at all events by a very large body of his fellow-countrymen, when he recommends that into every transaction there should be put the largest possible amount of truth. Probably the natives of India are impressed by no one quality of their British rulers more powerfully than by this—that the English Sahib really says what he thinks, and makes it perfectly plain and clear beforehand, by what rules he intends to be guided. When the statue of Sir George Cornwall Lewis, in Radnorshire, was inaugurated, his eulogists all agreed in ascribing to him, as one of his highest qualities as a statesman, a sincerity which was far more than the absence of its opposite—a hatred of even the appearance of evasion, and a positive impatience of unnecessary concealment. Lord Bacon, though, in his *Essay on Dissimulation*, he leans to the side of cunning and craft with greater partiality than seems to many of his readers either politic or admirable, allows that "the ablest men that ever were, have had all an openness and frankness of dealing, and a name of certainty and veracity." Another important admission which he makes, is that, besides certain other disadvantages, dissimulation "depriveth a man of one of the most powerful instruments for action, which is trust and belief." May not this be regarded as both eminently an English maxim, and as one eminently sound and true? Suspicion begets suspicion, and trust begets trust. Even where there is no absolute feigning or insincerity, there may be an excess of reserve. What you seem to gain by over-caution in concealing, you are tolerably sure to lose (and the penalty may be far heavier), by repelling confidence,—by forfeiting the knowledge of opinions and wishes which would otherwise have been freely expressed to you.

A secretive habit of mind, and much more the deliberate use of guile, are of course quite distinct from the self-restraint and reticence which ordinary good sense and good feeling dictate. In this latter sense, some amount of reserve as a rule of conduct, is enjoined in proverbs and precepts, "sorted and of all sizes," from the nursery saying, "Think twice before you speak once," to the more courtly phrase of Polonius in his parting speech to Laertes, "Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice. Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment." Robert Burns, in a well-known verse of his "Epistle to a Young Friend," hits off happily the idea of a balance to be aimed at,

between sociable openness, and a too communicative fluency—

Aye free aff-han' your story tell,  
When wi' a bosom crony :  
But still keep something to yourself  
Ye scarcely tell to any.

To adopt and observe rules, implies volition. What shall we say of that large amount of reserve which is purely involuntary? First, it may be proper to observe, that the reserve which is involuntary, is very often only occasional. Many causes may contribute to it, and the effect vanishes as soon as you remove the cause. Even the weather may have to do with a man's taciturnity. Human sympathies and ideas are not wholly insensible to the influences which contract and close up the pores of the skin. There is a passage in Goethe's writings in which he says that a subject over which he had brooded in vain for three months, shaped itself at once into form in his mind under the genial influence of the first mild and sunny days of spring. Humdrum ordinary people like ourselves, may perhaps be excused for experiencing in our temper and our capacity for putting common thoughts into words, the discouraging powers of those bleak skies and wintry winds, which suspend, or at least dull, even creative genius.

It seems nothing but natural, that people should turn for the time less communicative, as they turn afraid to face the open-air without greatcoats and wraps. If the action and reaction are equal, the spring of 1865 ought to be a period of extraordinary sociability and freedom of converse. Only think what long arrears of material and moral sunshine have been accumulating since Christmas, to be wiped off at the first opportunity! Like the effect of the inn fire on the horn of Baron Munchausen's postillion, which gave out, when it was hung up in the warm kitchen, the tunes he had tried to blow into it when the frost was too hard, the very first days of April or May that are really balmy and open, ought to bring out no end of cheerful thoughts and kind feelings which did long "at their fountain freeze."

Even if these remarks were to be taken more seriously than they are meant, the thermometer and the weathercock do not show all the causes, or even the principal causes, of occasional reserve. It is easier by far, to be independent of the material atmosphere around you, than of the mental and moral one. How is it that some persons seem, by their very presence, to call out the best points in others, and to put an end, as by magic, to everything like constraint or difficulty of expression? You feel, when you meet them, as if touched by some invisible enchanter's wand. Neither do your powers of thought fail you, nor your powers of language, and the very words you want fall at once into their right places!

The existence of minds of this order affords some compensation for the contrary influence exerted, wherever they exist in combination, by a cold heart and a cramped understanding. It would be as reasonable to expect a newly lighted fire to burn up with a thick screen of ice placed in front of it, as to expect good and happy thoughts to flow forth, in the company of people who are not ignorant merely, but concealed and captious. As fatal to freedom of intercourse, is the absence of mutual confidence. The presence in a room of even one person of known want of good taste and discretion, is enough to destroy all real and happy interchange of feeling and thought.

It is sometimes deemed unwise to speak at all freely in the presence of children, but a well-brought-up boy or girl is to be trusted ten times over rather than a confirmed gossip. We may observe, too, that if the sexes are to be compared in this particular, by far the less respectable and safe gossip of the two, is a full-grown male gossip. We never hear it said that "Little pitchers have long ears," without feeling that for the sake of justice and fair play, that proverb should be capped by some other, to the effect that an old kettle may have as long a nose for mischief as a new one, or that large pitchers have wide spouts.

What is called unaccountable reserve or distance of behaviour, is very often nothing more than a shield against impertinence, or a defence instinctively set up against being absurdly misinterpreted. The truth is, that the mind or the soul is an instrument, the control of which does not rest by any means exclusively with its possessor. There are stops in it which he cannot himself open, whole ranges of keys on which he cannot himself play. At the same time, there is no created touch, which has anything like the same power to silence or fetch out the music of this delicate and

curious instrument, as the influence of other minds and souls, according to their kind.

If reserve be ascribed, as we have said, in a somewhat undiscriminating manner, to the English as a people, the term is applied in a still vaguer and more random way, to pourtray an individual trait of character. Involuntary reserve is, no doubt, sometimes both habitual and incurable. The very make of some minds seems to incapacitate them for putting themselves at all openly and freely in relation to others. But a mistake, very commonly fallen into, is to confound together the modesty or the shyness which can say nothing, with the ignorance or the insipidity which have really nothing to say. It may be hard to draw water from a well for one of two reasons, either because the well is deep or the access difficult; or because the well, though perhaps shallow and open enough, has no water in it at all. If, after being long and fairly tested, a man gives no sign of information and intelligence, either by his conversation or in any other manner, the proper account to be given of him, is not that he is reserved, but simply that he is stupid, or empty. Or if he opens his mouth very seldom, and then only to find fault, or to say something unpleasant, ill-natured or unsympathetic would be a far juster epithet to apply to him than reserved. The latter term may be used no doubt with very little real applicability, for the sake of politeness, and as a mere euphemism, but it certainly loses all value when so used, as conveying any idea of personal characteristics. This is the more to be deprecated, because very loving and noble natures require sometimes to be classed and discriminated under this very head of reserve. Without subscribing to the dictum that "if speech is silver, silence is golden," we do believe that some of the best people alive happen to put a very small part of their wisdom and their goodness into words.

In a world where so many and immense benefits are being transmitted from the past, and where calls for succour and sympathy come both from the present and the future, every man is bound to show in some way what is in him, and what he will be, or do, or suffer, for the general good. But this need not be shown in an eloquent, or even in an articulate manner. Life, with its manifold ties, and opportunities of action, affords a vehicle of expression quite capable of making up for a slow tongue, or an uncertain flow of thought.

Some of the best workers are proverbially silent workers. Even good conversation is often very powerfully promoted by good and intelligent listeners, and by those who take pains to select and bring together social elements which are likely to stimulate each other, and to combine happily. When those two illustrious companions, Barnabas and Paul, took their first missionary voyage together, it is no proof that Barnabas afforded little or unimportant service to the enterprise, "that Paul was the chief speaker." Probably out of the whole glorious company of the apostles, though there were but twelve, there were several who would have made but a moderate appearance as brilliant talkers, or as speakers on a platform, though they understood very well how "to love, not in word but in deed."

#### Parliamentary Proceedings.

##### HOUSE OF LORDS.

On Thursday, the LORD CHANCELLOR brought in a bill to give further powers to the Encumbered Estates Court in Ireland.

The Private Bills Costs Bill was read a third time after some further amendments.

Several bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned at twenty minutes to six o'clock.

On Friday, the Royal assent was given by commission to several bills, including Affirmations (Scotland); Election Petitions Act (1848) Amendment; Drainage and Improvement of Lands (Ireland) Provisional Orders Confirmation; the Marine Mutiny; the Mutiny; the Bank of Ireland; the Colonial Naval Defence; the East Indian High Courts; &c.

##### THE WAR IN BHOUTAN.

Lord LYVEDEN asked what it was proposed to do in Bhoutan. The annexation of that country would be most mischievous.

Lord DUFFERIN deprecated discussion on the subject. The Bhootans had committed depredations on British subjects, and outraged a British envoy, and a military force had in consequence been sent to push their frontiers a few miles nearer to the mountains. There was no idea of annexation.

##### DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, in the absence of the Earl of Shaftesbury, moved an amendment in standing order 191, to the effect that any company, railway or others, authorised by Parliament to take in any city, town, or village fifteen houses or more, occupied either wholly or partially as tenants or lodgers by persons belonging to the labouring classes, should give eight weeks' notice to the heads of families inhabiting the same, and post placards to

the same effect in the vicinity; and that before the houses could be taken a justice's certificate that these conditions had been complied with should be had.

A short discussion followed, in the course of which

The Bishop of LONDON said that, in consequence of these disturbances of the poorer classes from their dwellings, the spiritual duties of the clergy amongst this class had become more difficult. In some metropolitan parishes, where numbers of the labouring poor had been dispossessed by improvements, poor rates had increased. The provision made of new dwellings was most inadequate; and he thought the rich City companies, who had more money than they knew what to do with, might properly devote a portion to this purpose. He hoped their Lordships would carry the matter further than the point they had now reached.

The motion was agreed to.

In reply to complaints by Lord Harrowby, Earl GRANVILLE defended the alteration of the education code in reference to the attendance of children under six years of age. There had, however, been some modification in it.

In reply to the Bishop of Oxford, Earl GRANVILLE said eminent medical men had been sent out to St. Petersburg and to the Vistula to report on the diseases existing there.

The House adjourned for the Easter holidays at twenty minutes past six o'clock.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On Wednesday, on the motion for going into committee on the Land Debentures (Ireland) Bill, the ATTORNEY-GENERAL explained that as the bills relating to this matter had been recommended by a select committee the Government would not oppose them in committee, reserving the liberty of doing so at any other stage should it appear desirable. After a few words from Mr. HENLEY, the House went into committee, and the various clauses in the bill were agreed to with amendments.

The O'DONOUGHE moved the second reading of the bill to repeal an Act of Anne relating to Tories, robbers, and rapparees in Ireland. Sir R. PEEL should not oppose the second reading of the bill, but said some points would require consideration in committee. After a few words from Mr. George, Colonel French, and Mr. Scully, the bill was read a second time.

#### METROPOLITAN VAGRANTS.

The House went into committee on the Metropolitan Houseless Poor Bill. Mr. VILLIERS proposed the insertion of a clause after clause three, giving the police power to provide temporary relief. Mr. BROMLEY proposed the addition of the following clause:—

That, from the passing of this act, every police-station within the metropolitan district shall be constituted an office for the issuing of orders of admission for destitute persons requiring the same, into the casual ward of the workhouse of the district in which the said police-station is situated.

Mr. VILLIERS said his clause would meet all the requirements of the case, and there really was no necessity for Mr. Bromley's amendment. The police authorities had already power to do all that was requisite. Mr. HENLEY criticised the arrangements made at some of the workhouses. As to Mr. Villiers's clause, he suggested the addition of certain words to make it more general. Mr. VILLIERS consented, and the clause was agreed to, Mr. Bromley's amendment being withdrawn. On the motion of Mr. AYRTON, the operation of the Act was made permanent instead of temporary. Some other clauses were agreed to, and progress was ordered to be reported. A new writ was ordered for the election of a member for South Shropshire, in the place of Lord Newport, now Earl of Bradford. Several bills were advanced a stage, and the House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past three o'clock.

#### WIMBLEDON COMMON.

On Thursday, Lord BURY moved the second reading of the Wimbledon Common Bill. He declared that the report of the committee on open spaces against the bill was contrary to the evidence which had been adduced. Earl Spencer wished to devote 688 acres of the common absolutely to the public use, and in order that he might do so he wished to fence in the enclosure, to sell land to pay the necessary cost, and to give compensation for the extinction of common rights. He would be willing to forego the fencing, and if the public would raise the necessary sum by a rate he would not press the sale of land. But he regarded it as absolutely essential that the common rights should be extinguished. If the bill were not passed Earl Spencer would be put to the proof of his legal rights, and there would be little doubt that few rights other than those of his lordship would be found to exist.

Mr. COX moved the rejection of the bill. It was wholly unnecessary, and was opposed by nearly every resident in the neighbourhood of the common.

After a lengthened discussion, the amendment was withdrawn, and the bill was read a second time.

#### COLONIAL BISHOPS.

Mr. H. SEYMOUR asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government intended to take any steps to amend the patents of the Colonial Bishops, defining their jurisdiction.

Mr. CARDWELL said the patents which had been issued by the Patent-office were now undergoing careful examination, with a view of submitting a case for the opinion of the law officers of the Crown. It was the intention of the Government most carefully to examine the late decision of the Privy Council before any further patents were issued. (Hear, hear.)

#### THE PESTILENCE IN RUSSIA.

In reply to Sir J. Pakington, Sir G. GREY recounted what had been done as to obtaining information in reference to the plague in Russia. Directions had been given to the Customs to examine carefully all ships coming from the Baltic. Sir Andrew Buchanan said the disease, which was a fever, was decreasing. Lord Napier said an unknown disorder had appeared along the Vistula. At Dantzig there was a complaint of the brain affecting children. At Warsaw there was a typhus fever, but not in the proportions of an epidemic. At Konigsberg, Memel, and Stettin there was no epidemic.

#### DEFENCE OF CANADA.

Mr. HALIBURTON urged Lord Elcho not to proceed with his motion as to Canada, as there was a deputation from Canada on the subject on its way to this country.

Lord ELCHO said for that very reason he should press his motion. When the House voted the money for the defences they were under the impression that the sum asked for had been agreed upon between the Home and Colonial Government. It now appeared that was not the case. In the Canadian Parliament it had been stated that the arrangements were not completed, that besides what would be paid by the Imperial Government it was expected also to give a guarantee for the sum raised by the Colonial Government, and one speaker, Mr. Galt, said that if only 50,000L a year was going to be voted Canada had better remain without an armament. With that last opinion he (Lord Elcho) agreed. But these statements made it necessary that some distinct understanding should be come to. The best opinions he had been able to get were to the effect that Canada was indefensible. It was then worse than wrong to seduce Canada into a heavy expenditure by the promise of money, men, and assistance which would only invite attack and be powerless to resist aggression. Let Canada continue in the cultivation of the peaceful arts, and not be encouraged to prepare for war. He concluded by moving for papers on the subject.

Sir J. HAY seconded the motion. He contended that Canada was indefensible. A better thing than the making of fortifications would be the completion of the intercolonial railway from Halifax to Quebec.

Mr. BUXTON argued that the opinions of the Canadians should be taken before they erected defences. It might be that Canada would not desire England to make the fortifications or to keep troops in the country, and it would be wise to be certain on the point. He did not believe that Canada was defensible, and no British garrison there could withstand the assault of 200,000 or 300,000 Americans.

Colonel SYKES, in answer to three questions which he propounded, said, first, it was not possible to defend Canada; secondly, it was impolitic to attempt to do so; and, thirdly, it would be unjust to the ratepayers of this country to make such an attempt.

Mr. ADDERLEY contended that it was both possible and politic to defend Canada. They ought to encourage the Canadians to put themselves in a good defensive position, and to assist them in doing so.

Mr. CARDWELL argued that the motion was ill-timed. Four members of the Canadian Government were coming to this country for a conference on the subject, and it was absurd to suppose that the Home Government would produce papers relating to the matter while this conference was pending. The Government would give the most respectful attention to the representations of the delegates. The spirit of the Canadian Parliament was one of loyalty, and it would ill become England to damp that spirit. Canada could be defended, and its first defence was the knowledge that it would be supported by England, and the second the spirit and energy of the people. To call out the latter had been the object of the Government, and they had succeeded. He deprecated the continuance of the discussion.

Mr. KINGLAKE said it was clear they were all mistaken when they voted on the previous occasion. They thought the whole matter had been arranged between the Home and the Colonial Government, and now it was manifest that was not the case. He thought the opinion of the Canadians should be taken on the subject. His opinion was that there should be fortifications, but that we should disentangle ourselves from arrangements until we knew that all the resources of Canada would be put at our disposal for defence.

Mr. J. B. SMITH thought that the cost of defending Canada—even if it were possible—would be greater than the advantages which could be derived from our connection with Canada.

Alderman ROSE believed the debate would have a mischievous effect in Canada.

Sir F. SMITH said the scheme of defence which had been adopted had the approval of the highest military authorities. He believed the defence of Canada was perfectly easy.

Major ANSON declared it was the general opinion of British officers that Canada was utterly indefensible. He asked had not Colonel Gordon, Colonel Wetherall, and Colonel Mackenzie reported on the defence of Canada? He believed they had, and in a manner which astonished the War Office. Why, he asked, was their report kept back, and that of Colonel Jervois put forward?

Sir J. PAKINGTON said there was reason to believe that what had been put before the House was merely a covering letter, and not the full report of Colonel Jervois. He blamed the Government generally for the manner in which they had dealt with this matter, and urged that the House should be told on what military authority they were acting.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE said that all the military advice which the Government possessed was not inconsistent with Colonel Jervois's report. It had never been said that a complete understanding had been come to with the Canadian Government. He thought the debate would do good.

General PEEL thought it would be quite possible for Canada, with the assistance of this country, to resist any attack which might be made on her. He certainly understood there was an agreement between the Home and Colonial Government as to the defences, and he was not prepared to relieve the Government of its responsibility in the matter.

Mr. CARDWELL explained that he had never said there was such an agreement.

Mr. LAIRD said it would be easy to send out iron-clads for the defence of Canada.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON said there was a report from Colonel Gordon as to the defence of Canada, and there was nothing in it to show that it was impossible to defend that colony. All responsible authorities agreed that it would be quite possible to defend the country.

Lord ELCHO withdrew his amendment, and the House went into committee of supply.

A vote of 1,748,000L, on account of the Civil Service Estimates was agreed to after a brief discussion.

Several votes on account of army estimates were then taken, and the House resumed.

The Metropolitan Houseless Poor Bill was considered and ordered to be read a third time, after some remarks from Lord R. CECIL.

The Refreshment House Act Amendment Bill was read a second time after some discussion.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

#### METROPOLITAN SEWAGE.

On Friday, at the time of private business, on the consideration of the bill of Messrs. Napier and Hope as to the Metropolitan Sewage,

Mr. AYRTON called attention to the extraordinary character of the measure. It was a bill promoted by parties who alleged no partnership, but who boldly asked to be able to sell the Act of Parliament as soon as it was obtained. In the concession, which gave the promoters ten years in which to do the work, there was a clause under which he argued the ratepayers might be made responsible for the whole cost of the work. He moved that consideration of the bill be deferred until after Easter, to give the promoters time to bring up clauses to protect the ratepayers from responsibility in case of failure on the one hand, and to give the ratepayers power to examine the accounts of the company.

Mr. KNIGHT said the committee on the bill believed it to be of great public importance, and he hoped its consideration would not be delayed.

Mr. HEADLAM said the object of Mr. Ayrton plainly was to get two clauses inserted in the bill which he had proposed in the committee, and which had been rejected by five to two. The clauses were unnecessary and undesirable. He thought, however, that the article in the concession to which allusion had been made required modification in order that all possibility of responsibility in case of failure on the part of the ratepayers should be obviated.

After some further discussion the consideration of the bill was postponed till after Easter.

A new writ was issued for the election of a member for Rochdale; another for the election of a member for the Wigton District of Burghs; and another for the election of a member for Clackmannan and Kinross.

In reply to Mr. Onslow, Sir G. GREY said the Government had no information which would lead them to place vessels arriving from Russia in quarantine.

In reply to Mr. H. Seymour, Sir C. WOOD said he had received a telegram from India, sent he did not know by whom, informing him that an export duty had been put upon jute, coffee, and other articles. He did not believe it.

In reply to Lord Elcho, Mr. CARDWELL said that no definite arrangement would be made with the deputation from Canada in reference to the defences of that country without the approval of Parliament.

The O'DONOUGHE fixed the 9th of May for his motion for a charter for the Catholic University in Ireland.

Mr. LANGTON, for Mr. Berkeley, said that gentleman would shortly after Easter call attention to the ballot.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER fixed the 27th of April for bringing in his Budget.

#### IRISH RAILWAYS.

On the motion to go into committee of supply, Mr. MONSELL moved:—

That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that the commissioners appointed to inquire into the railway system of the United Kingdom may be instructed to direct their inquiries, in the first instance, to the Irish railway system, with a view of ascertaining, with as little delay as possible, such facts as may enable this House to determine whether the provisions of the second clause of the general Railway Act of 1844 should be applied to such Irish railways as are subject to its provisions.

He contended that the application of the Act of 1844, by which the Government would take possession of the railways of Ireland, would immensely benefit that country and stimulate industry and enterprise. At some length he showed the advantages which he believed would accrue from the adoption of his proposition, and declared that he would rather have the Act of 1844 applied to Ireland than have the income-tax in that country repealed.

Mr. WHITESIDE and Mr. ENNIS supported the motion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER could give the assurance that measures should be taken to

ensure the fullest investigation into the affairs of Irish railways. If it were desired to confer any special boon on Ireland, he did not believe there was any method so comprehensive as the Government taking the railways into their control, with a view to the reduction of the fares. He could not pledge himself to what would be done by the Government in the matter at some future time. Full investigation was needed, and for that purpose the commission had been granted. He did not think it would be wise to tie the commissioners down to the particular things set forth in the motion of Mr. Monsell, and therefore he urged that it should be withdrawn, he undertaking on the part of the Government to take measures to insure a full inquiry into the Irish railway system by the commissioners.

The motion was withdrawn.

#### EXTENSION OF THE EPISCOPATE.

Mr. WYLD asked whether the Government were prepared to divide the diocese of Exeter and make Cornwall a separate diocese.

Mr. F. S. POWELL said that the time had passed when bishops were men of ease. They were now men of activity and self-sacrifice, but still they were not able to cope with the spiritual wants of the country. He advocated a large and wise extension of the episcopate. There was a growing opinion out of doors in favour of an increase of dioceses, and he was quite certain that no inconvenience would arise from acceding to the concession asked for by the hon. member for Bodmin.

Mr. AYRTON trusted it would not go forth that there was any serious appeal to the right hon. gentleman the Home Secretary to establish any number of bishops from three to thirty. ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) For his part he considered it would be one of the greatest misappropriations of the funds at the disposal of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to begin to endow bishoprics in any part of the kingdom. (Hear, hear.) The hon. member said it was not necessary to appeal to the public funds, for that there were persons ready to endow bishoprics. Well, it would be quite time enough for those persons, when they had got the funds necessary to endow bishoprics to address themselves to the Government with a view of inducing them to create new bishoprics. He thought the real demand of the Church of England at the present time was not for an increase of bishops, but for ministers to minister to the poorer classes. (Hear, hear.)

Sir G. GRAY said the Government considered it impossible to enter into the question of the division of the diocese of Exeter without entering into the consideration of that question as regarded other dioceses. He knew that a strong desire existed in Exeter on this subject, and that there was a struggle between Bodmin and Truro as to which place should be the cathedral city if the division of the diocese was effected. (Hear, hear.) There was no doubt that in point of area Exeter was one of the largest dioceses, but there were no less than six other dioceses with a considerably larger population, several of whom had also expressed a desire that there should be a division of the dioceses. The Bishop of Exeter, he believed, had made an arrangement by which, under the authority of an act of Parliament, a portion of his duties were taken by an ex-colonial bishop. Her Majesty's Government did not think at present there was a necessity for a division of the boundaries of dioceses. With regard to the funds, it should be remembered that to endow four or five bishoprics would take from 20,000/- to 30,000/- a year, which would have to be deducted from the funds which were now being distributed with great advantage to the interests of the Church and the spiritual interests of the people in increasing the endowment of small livings and in providing additional clergy for populous districts. (Hear, hear.)

The subject then dropped.

#### BHOUTAN.

Mr. H. SEYMOUR called attention to the recent news from Bhoutan, giving a brief narrative of the occurrences in the expedition to that country and of the original cause of it. He thought the circumstances were of so exceptional a character that the House should have some explanation before separating for the holidays. After observations by Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Göschen, and Mr. Torrens on the conduct of the war, Sir C. Wood, discrediting some of the accounts referred to by Mr. Seymour, said he thought the best course upon the whole was to give the House a statement of what had really taken place between the Indian Government and Bhoutan. He accordingly gave a narrative of the transactions, beginning with the mission of Mr. Eden, who, he said, had not been guilty of any indiscretion, and explaining the choice of measures at the option of the Bengal Government, to punish the Bhootees for the insult offered to the British envoy. He detailed the operations of the British force sent to occupy the Dooars, and stated the condition of affairs at the date of the last advices.

#### SUPPLY.

The House then went into committee of supply upon the navy estimates, when the following votes were agreed to, after discussion:—1,158,797/- for wages to artificers and labourers in dockyards, &c., at home. 72,585/- for the same abroad. 64,800/- for medicines and medical stores. 103,925/- for miscellaneous services.

#### MASTERS AND MEN.

Lord ELCHO, in the absence of Mr. Cobbett, moved for a select committee to inquire into the state of the law as regards contracts of service between master and servant, and as to the expediency of amending the same. The motion was agreed to.

The remaining orders and some further business having been disposed of, the House adjourned at five minutes past one o'clock, until Monday, the 24th.

## Foreign and Colonial.

#### THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

The Africa brings advices from New York to March 31st.

Grant announces that at early morning on the 25th the Confederates attacked the extreme right of the Potomac army, and captured Fort Steadman and two minor works, together with General M'Laughlin and many prisoners. They also attacked Fort Haskell, but were repulsed. Subsequently the Federals were heavily reinforced, and after several ineffectual attempts repossessed the captured works, driving the Confederates back to their own lines, with the loss of about 1,000 prisoners. The Confederate loss in killed and wounded is estimated at 3,000. The Federal loss is stated at 1,000. Lee's object is believed to have been to seize Grant's military railway at City Point, and it is admitted that had he succeeded it would have compelled the abandonment of the whole Federal line south of the Appomattox. Confederate prisoners attribute their failure to the death, early in the assault, of the general to whom the command of the movement had been entrusted. During the day Grant advanced his extreme left, driving in the Confederate pickets and capturing some rifle-pits. A fierce contest ensued, lasting until eight p.m., the Federals holding the rifle-pits at the close. Loss, 1,200; that of Confederates not given, but stated as heavy.

General Lee's report of the actions before Petersburg states that Fort Steadman and other works captured on the Federal right being commanded by stronger batteries in their rear, which could not have been carried without too great sacrifices, they were abandoned, and the Confederate troops withdrawn to their own entrenchments.

General Sherman arrived at City Point from Goldsborough, *vid* Newbern, on the 27th, and on the following day participated in a conference of war with President Lincoln and Generals Grant, Meade, Sheridan, and Ord. In the evening he set out on his return to his head-quarters. The result of the conference had not been made public.

Despatches from General Sherman to the 22nd inst. state that he had had severe fighting since leaving Fayetteville, with very heavy loss to the enemy in killed and wounded. He had captured over 2,000 prisoners. His loss since leaving Savannah amounted to 2,500 men, many of whom were only slightly wounded. Sherman issued an order, dated the 22nd, near Bentonville, stating that the concentrated armies of the enemy had on the 21st been beaten upon their chosen ground, and were fleeing in disorder, leaving their dead and wounded, and burning the bridges in their retreat. The campaign has resulted in a glorious success.

General Schofield announces his occupation of Goldsborough on the 21st. He met with slight opposition. General Terry would probably reach Goldsborough the same night. According to unofficial despatches a portion of Sherman's forces from Fayetteville flanked and overpowered the Confederates at Mount Olive on the 21st. The Confederates retreated in confusion towards Smithfield.

The Federals claim that the engagement at Averysborough on the 16th was a victory for Sherman, and that, after a temporary repulse at Bentonville on the 19th, they drove back Johnstone, who retreated on the 20th across the Neuse River.

Sheridan's whole force crossed the James River at Deep Bottom on the 26th to join Grant.

Mr. Lincoln visited the Potomac army on Saturday, the 25th, and, together with Mrs. Lincoln and a number of ladies and gentlemen, witnessed a portion of the battle on that day. He has ordered General Anderson to proceed to Charleston, and upon the 14th proximo hoist upon Fort Sumter the identical flag which he hauled down four years previously, when he surrendered the fort to General Beauregard. Mr. Lincoln has also ordered a salute of 100 guns in celebration of the ceremony to be fired by each of the Confederate batteries which assisted in the reduction of the fort, and that Mr. Henry Ward Beecher be invited to deliver an address upon the occasion.

The President's visit to City Point has caused the revival of peace rumours, it being asserted that Lee, convinced of his inability to hold Richmond, had renewed his request for a military peace conference, but the report had been semi-officially denied.

The movement against Mobile commenced on the 17th. The Federals, moving towards Bonsecours, and also from Barrancas, had occupied Pascagoula.

Robert J. Walker had written a letter denying entirely that he was visiting Canada to promote the annexation of that country to the United States.

General Peck, by direction of General Dix, notifies that hereafter the President's order of January 28, requiring all travellers from foreign countries coming to the United States by sea, excepting ordinary immigrants, to be provided with a passport, will be strictly enforced.

The United States' District Court at New Orleans had ordered the confiscation of the properties in that city belonging to Mr. Benjamin, Confederate Secretary of State, and Mr. John Slidell, Confederate Commissioner at Paris.

Messrs. Jay, Cooke, and Co., agents of the Treasury Department, announce that the whole of the first seven-thirty loan had been subscribed, and that subscriptions for the new series, to be issued in June, would be immediately received.

The Confederate Secretary of the Treasury had proposed to hypothecate to the banks and capitalists 50,000 bales of Government cotton at 20c. the pound,

with the privilege of exportation, as security for a loan of 3,000,000 dols. in specie.

Gold was 51 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. premium. The Government is said to be endeavouring to check any decline in gold below 150, fearing it would interrupt the sale of their securities.

#### FRANCE.

In the Corps Législatif on Friday, M. Jules Simon maintained that it was necessary that the Conseils-Généraux should select their own presidents and the Municipal Councils the mayors for their respective districts. M. Picard criticised and blamed in strong terms the administration of M. Haussmann, the Prefect of the Seine. M. Rouher defended the present organisation of the Conseils-Généraux. With regard to the municipal organisation of Paris, he endeavoured to show that when the highest interests of the Government and country are found united in one commune it is but natural that private interests should be made subordinate to the general interest. As regards the appointment of mayors, the Government, while maintaining the right to choose a nominee not belonging to the Municipal Councils, had resolved to exercise that right only in exceptional cases, and as a rule to select the mayors solely from the members of the councils. The Government had also resolved not to reorganise the municipal administrations until after the next elections. The amendment proposed by the Opposition was then rejected by 209 to 26 votes.

On Saturday, the Committee on the Address proposed the addition of a paragraph stating that the Assembly had hailed with satisfaction the declaration of the Government that, as far as possible, the mayors and deputy mayors would be elected from among the members of the Municipal Councils. The amendment was then withdrawn, and paragraphs nine and ten were adopted. On paragraph eleven being read, M. Jules Favre explained the amendment proposed by the Opposition in reference to the system of judicial inquiry into criminal cases, and in favour of the abolition of capital punishment. He defended the great principle of the inviolability of human life in a speech which was listened to by the Chamber with profound attention, and some passages were greeted with almost unanimous applause. The amendment in reference to the abolition of capital punishment was rejected, and paragraph eleven was then adopted.

M. Havin then moved an amendment in favour of gratuitous and compulsory education. MM. Havringcourt and Bartholomew replied. M. Carnot supported the amendment.

There has been a struggle in the French Academy between the partisans of M. Jules Favre, the French critic, who is an Imperialist, and M. Provost-Paradol, the accomplished writer in the *Journal des Débats*, and an independent politician. The latter was elected by 16 to 14 votes.

The Emperor of the French has paid a graceful tribute to the memory of Mr. Cobden. He has decided that a bust of the lamented statesman shall be placed in the Museum at Versailles.

#### ITALY.

In the Chamber of Deputies on the 17th, the Minister of the Interior requested that the Bill for the Suppression of Religious Bodies should be discussed prior to the dissolution of the Chamber. The Minister said that he would bring in an amendment which, setting aside the question of ecclesiastical property, would facilitate the discussion. Signor Luzzi stated as a positive fact that the Court of Rome had issued orders to the priests to interfere actively in the next elections. The proposition of the Minister was then accepted, and the suppression of the religious bodies will be discussed simultaneously with the financial bills.

#### PRUSSIA.

The Prussian War Minister on the 5th laid before the Berlin Lower Chamber a bill calling for nineteen millions of thalers to be expended during the next six years in the construction of harbours and men of war. The Minister declared that Prussia was resolved to keep possession of Kiel, and that the fortification of that place and the building of iron-clads would require the sum demanded. The Ministerial proposition was referred to a special committee.

#### GERMANY.

On Thursday the German Federal Diet adopted the Bavarian resolution calling upon Austria and Prussia to cede Holstein to the Duke of Augustenburg. Austria and Prussia thereupon made separate declarations. Austria declared herself ready to surrender the Duchy should Prussia agree to it—otherwise not. Prussia declared that she was willing to come to an understanding on the subject, but that the understanding must depend on a previous investigation of all the claims to the Duchies, and especially her own. She would maintain her right of possession until a solution had been arrived at in accordance with her own convictions and satisfactory to the other parties interested in the Duchies. In conclusion, the Prussian representative stated that Prussia could at once declare herself unable to hold out any prospect of realising the expectations expressed in the resolution which had just been adopted by the Diet.

#### AUSTRIA.

The Vienna papers assert that Count Karolyi, the Austrian Ambassador at Berlin, has been instructed to ask Herr von Bismarck for an explanation of the statement of the Prussian Minister of War, that the

Prussian Government was determined to retain possession of Kiel. It is also asserted that Count Karolyi was to put in a provisional protest.

It is stated that the manifesto convoking the Hungarian Diet for the month of September next will shortly be issued.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says it is reported that the Austrian army will undergo a reduction of 70,000 men, "if things remain quiet."

#### CANADA.

The Montreal Court had refused the extradition of the Vermont raiders, on the ground that General Dix, by his order to shoot them down, recognised them as belligerents, and entitled them to be considered as such. They were set at liberty on the 29th, but were immediately re-arrested on the charge of violating neutrality.

#### INDIA.

A telegram from Bombay of April 4, says:—"Sir Charles Trevelyan has made his financial statement. The deficit this year amounts to 144,000*l*. The estimates for the year ending April, 1866, show a surplus of 500,000*l*. The income-tax is to cease. An export duty of three per cent. is to be levied on jute, wool, tea, and coffee, and of two per cent. on hides, sugar, and silk. The import duty on hops is reduced to one per cent. The financial condition of the country is declared to be prosperous."

A telegram from India announces the recapture of Dewangri by General Toomba. On the 22nd inst. the place was taken by the Bhootanese from the British under circumstances very disastrous to British prestige, but it has speedily been retaken by the new commander. The Bhootanese fought well, and lost 130 killed and thirty prisoners.

#### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

The following telegram has been received from General Cameron:—"Hostilities commenced in the Whangarei district on the 24th Jan. Lieutenant-General Cameron advanced with a force of 800 men towards the Waitotara River. On the same day a skirmish took place with the rebels in posting a picket at Nukumtrar, near which village the troops had encamped. On the 25th, the rebels attacked the camp in force, and were repulsed with the loss of seventy killed, number of wounded unknown. Our loss in two days is Lieutenant Johnson, 40th Regiment, mortally wounded (since dead), Lieutenant Wilson, 50th Regiment, severely wounded, and Ensign Grant, 50th Regiment, dangerously wounded. Fifteen men killed, and thirty wounded. On the 5th February we crossed the river, and encamped on the left bank.

The Confederate cruiser *Shenandoah* was in Australian waters. On the 23rd of February she was anchored off King's Island, not far from Melbourne. Her commander had made the terrible threat that he would report to his Government at Richmond the conduct of the Australian authorities in refusing to furnish his vessel.

The Panama mail contract has been signed by the Australian authorities.

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Telegrams from England had been received at Bombay by the Indo-European line in two days.

THE "PERMISSIVE ACT."—Mr. Dunkin's Act does not appear to satisfy its advocates. Many of the townships in Upper Canada which adopted it, after a few weeks' trial, are sick of it. In some places the unlicensed sale of liquor takes place openly, and the law is so unpopular that no one dares prosecute.—*Montreal Gazette*.

THE NIAGARA AND SACRAMENTO.—The Portuguese Government have complied with the demand of the American Minister by removing the Governor of Fort Belem for firing on the Niagara after the Federal vessels had signalled that they understood the first summons from the fort.

THE PESTILENCE IN RUSSIA.—Accounts respecting the pestilence in St. Petersburg continue to be of a very inconsistent character. Some of the reports describe a very serious state of matters, while others lead us to understand that the matter has been very much exaggerated, and that there is really nothing to be at all alarmed about. The former class of communications are unofficial, and the latter are official. The *Times*' correspondent at Berlin sends a telegram professing to be based upon authentic intelligence, which tells us that there are three diseases now epidemic at St. Petersburg, of which one is the dreaded Siberian sickness, or Black Death. On the other hand, a telegram from the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg gives us to understand that nothing more startling than the known diseases of recurrent and typhus fever are prevalent in the Russian capital. The mortality has ranged from seventy to eighty deaths daily, against the average normal mortality of forty daily. Instead of the forty physicians reported dead by the *Times*' telegram, four or five are said to have died. A later telegram from the Ambassador, dated Saturday afternoon, communicates a memorandum by the Russian Minister of the Interior. It states that the number of new cases of fever admitted to the hospital varies from 100 to 150 a day; that the highest mortality in the hospitals has been sixty a day, while the average of deaths has only been from twenty-five to thirty; and that only two physicians have died in the hospitals. The French Government has received despatches from which it appears that while the sanitary state of the city was most deplorable a few weeks ago it had recently improved very much. "At present," continues the despatch, "there is no epidemic beyond the ordinary 'sickness of the sea-

son.' These accounts seem to show that the gravity of the epidemic has been exaggerated."

#### FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. COBDEN.

(From the *Times*.)

On a steep hill-side in Sussex, the remains of Mr. Richard Cobden were on Friday laid to rest in accordance with his own expressed desire. Like his great political contemporary, the late Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Cobden might have counted on the anxiety of the nation to mark by a public funeral, had he wished or sanctioned it, the general gratitude for his public services. But those who knew him intimately were aware that his heart had long been in the grave of his only son, a lad of much promise, whose death some years ago in Germany, at the age of fifteen, and, curiously enough, upon a 6th of April, caused a shock which Mr. Cobden never wholly surmounted. Distant, therefore, from St. Paul's or Westminster Abbey, still more remote from centres of manufacturing industry, his ultimate place of repose was fixed; and though, at first sight, there seems to have been in the career of the late member for Rochdale little that was in common with a strictly agricultural district, and one so unsympathetic with extended ideas of the franchise that it was once said of Midhurst "the very stones appeared as voters for members of Parliament," it must be remembered that Dunford was not merely the house from which Mr. Cobden was buried. The Dunford estate was formerly farmed by his ancestors; here he himself was born; and when his admirers undertook to present him with a suitable acknowledgment of his unweary exertions and great personal sacrifices, the purchase of this property and the erection of Dunford House proved the most acceptable form which their offering could take. In the busy world, either of politics or commerce, the greater portion of Mr. Cobden's life may be said to have been the property of the public. At Dunford the few leisure hours which he could call his own were passed, and a photograph, happier than many which remain of public men who have passed away, represents him sitting on the lawn in front of this house, with a little grandchild clinging to his knee. Except to their own immediate connections and intimate friends, the family of Mr. Cobden issued no invitations to attend the funeral; and, taking into account the distance from town, and the difficulty of access to Midhurst by railway, it would have been no matter of surprise had the funeral proved a mere family gathering, instead of including among the mourners three Cabinet Ministers, two other members of the Government, the American Minister, nearly a twelfth of the House of Commons, and representatives of the principal commercial cities in the kingdom.

The first ordinary train by the South-Western Railway started at an inconveniently early hour, and the second would not have reached its destination in time to enable passengers by it to take part in the funeral ceremony. A special train, therefore, was despatched from Waterloo at 9.40 a.m., by which not only members of the House of Commons, but gentlemen from the manufacturing districts, to the number in all of some hundreds, proceeded first to Petersfield, *vid* Guildford, along the direct Portsmouth line, and thence to Midhurst by the unfinished branch which is to connect the South-Western with the Mid-Sussex line at Petworth. The train reached its destination shortly before twelve o'clock, and the members of Parliament and others on alighting were met by a numerous deputation, composed of the principal residents of Midhurst, headed by their bailiff and town-clerk. The shops in the town had been closed from eleven o'clock. Keeping together in something like processional order, the large concourse, all attired in deep mourning, walked from the railway-station to Cocking-causeway, the point at which the road traversed by them falls into the road leading from Dunford House to Lavington-churchyard, at which, therefore, it had been arranged that they should meet the funeral. Cocking-causeway is a sort of miniature common, affording a favourable mustering ground; and as the sombre gathering descended at a slow pace the hill immediately overhanging this causeway, it may be said to have thrown a shadow, dark and unmissable of the coming event, arrangements having been made that the carriages approaching from the opposite direction should not come in sight till the mourners from London were in readiness to join them.

A procession was accordingly organised, headed by the members of the Legislature. It must, however, be premised that, owing to the numbers present and to the perfect uniformity of attire, there was considerable difficulty in distinguishing exactly who were and who were not in the assembly, and the list of names must be taken rather as an indication of the nature of the attendance than as a list purporting to be accurate in all its details. Lord Kinnaird was the only peer present. The members of the House of Commons included the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Poor Law Board, the President of the Board of Trade, Lord Clarence Paget, Lord Alfred Paget, Sir Colman O'Loughlen, Sir S. M. Peto, Sir J. Shelley, Sir P. O'Brien, Mr. Mitford, Mr. Otway, Sir J. Clifton, Mr. Weguelin, Mr. Brown-Westhead, Sir F. Crossley, Mr. Stansfeld, Mr. Bixley, Mr. W. Ewart, Mr. J. C. Ewart, Mr. W. E. Forster, Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Galpin, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Moffatt, Mr. Potter, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. J. B. Smith, Mr. S. Gurney, Mr. Pilkington, Mr. W. Lawson, &c.

The local deputations comprised the following gentlemen:—From Manchester.—Mr. George Wilson, formerly chairman of the Anti-Corn Law League; Mr. S. P. Robinson (hon. secretary), Mr. J. Hicken

(secretary), Sir Elkanah Armytage, Mr. Abel Heywood (ex-Mayor), Mr. Henry Ashworth (chairman of the Chamber of Commerce), Mr. Malcolm Ross (vice-president), Mr. Hugh Fleming, Mr. Mark Phillips, Mr. R. N. Phillips, Mr. Samuel Pope (barrister), Mr. Thomas Warburton (secretary of the Liberal Registration Society), Mr. Fox Turner, and Mr. F. Boyce. From Rochdale.—Mr. Tatham (Mayor), Mr. S. Stott (ex-Mayor), Alderman Ashworth, Mr. Pagan, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Thomas Bright, Mr. Richard Hunt, Mr. Heap, Mr. Alderman Moore, Mr. Hoyle, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Booth, Mr. Maunsell, Mr. Kershaw, Mr. T. B. Williams, Mr. J. Ashworth, Mr. D. Whitaker, Mr. Petre, Mr. R. Mills, and Mr. R. Ashworth. From Blackburn.—Mr. W. Poulding and Mr. Richard Shackleton. From Edinburgh.—Mr. Duncan McLaren. From Bolton.—Mr. Thomas Thomason and Mr. Thomason, jun. From Oldham.—Mr. Joseph Radcliffe, jun. From Stockport.—Mr. B. Cregg (Mayor), Mr. Alderman Walmsley, and Mr. H. Coppock (town-clerk). From Liverpool.—Mr. Robertson Gladstone and Mr. J. R. Jeffrey. From Salford.—Mr. Wright Turner (Mayor) and Mr. Alderman J. W. Weston. From Ashton-under-Lyne.—Mr. John Glazebrook.

The general attendance included Mr. Adams, the American Minister; Dr. Hook, Dean of Chichester; Mr. Bridgen, Mayor of Brighton; Mr. Alonso G. Grant, from Ohio; Mr. Phillips, from Wisconsin; M. Malet, from Belgium; Mr. Samuel Morley, Mr. Elihu Burritt, Rev. Newman Hall, Rev. W. Brook, Mr. T. Rawlinson, C.E., Mr. E. Miall, Mr. H. Fawcett, Mr. Samuel Smiles, Colonel Salway, Mr. E. W. Poulton, Rev. H. Richard, Mr. Holyoake, Mr. Evans (chairman of the Emancipation Society), Sir C. W. Duke, Mr. J. Hambledon, Mr. Morland, Mr. C. Westerton, &c.

When all the gentlemen intending to take part in the funeral were ranged in order, there could not have been less in the aggregate than 700 or 800, and the local spectators probably doubled that number. As the hearse approached, containing the remains of the man whose memory they had travelled to that spot to honour, the members of the House of Commons all uncovered, and those, to the number of six or eight, including Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Villiers, and Mr. M. Gibson, who acted in the capacity of chief mourners, took their station immediately behind the vehicle. The mourning coaches, in addition to the brothers of the late Mr. Cobden, contained Mr. William Sale (his brother-in-law), Mr. John Williams (brother of Mrs. Cobden), Mr. F. Hogard, Mr. C. F. Kirk, Mr. W. Sale, jun., and Mr. Rhodes (relatives of Mr. Cobden), Mr. Fisher, sen., and Mr. Fisher, jun., Mr. Moffatt, M.P., Mr. Bright, M.P., and Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P. When these had driven past, the deputations from London and the provinces, headed by the members of the House of Commons, joined the ranks, the procession closing with some twelve or fifteen private carriages. The local deputation from Midhurst went on in advance of all.

From Cocking-causeway to West Lavington church the road lay through one of the picturesque gorges so common in the southern countries. To the right of the road is a belt of fir-trees, beyond which, in the extreme distance, the South Downs swell to such a height as to form the boundary of vision in that direction. To the left rises the steep hill on the crest of which the church of Lavington is built, a hill fringed at the base with groves of hazel, merging near the summit into strips of heather, with occasional clumps of fir-trees. As the procession wound at a foot pace through this narrow pass the haze, in shutting out from view the outlines of the distant hills, threw into bold relief the church itself, and caused it to stand out with the distinctness of a beacon or some commanding promontory. A little history worth repeating is connected with this building. At the time when Dr. Manning was fast tending towards Rome, but had not yet quitted his earlier faith, a former curate of the parish, the Rev. C. J. Laprimanday, was led to interest himself, mainly at the instance of Dr. Manning, in the erection of this edifice, which, with the parsonage-house and school, were built from the designs of Mr. Butterfield. By the time the building was completed Dr. Manning had progressed so far along the path to Rome that his last public act in connection with the Church of England was to take part in the opening ceremony. It may therefore be called his legacy to the Church he has forsaken. A more lovely site it would be difficult to select; the range of views commanded from the upper level is most extensive, and though it is said, since the interment of his son, Mr. Cobden could never bear to visit Lavington, it is a spot of all others to which the mind might turn as a tranquil, cheerful resting-place. The procession wound its way to the gate leading to the church grounds from which access is gained to the higher level, where the building stands, by a succession of terraces, bordered by hedges of fir-trees, clipped into sharp lines resembling walls. As the party with their mournful burden passed the school, the children, in their uniform of blue bonnets and blouses, were drawn up outside, and added their sad but respectful greeting to the universal testimony of affection and regret entertained for Mr. Cobden. The Rev. J. Currie, M.A., incumbent of West Lavington, the Rev. Caleb Collins, M.A., rector of Stedham and Heyshot (the parish to which Dunford properly belongs), the Rev. W. Elgie, M.A., assistant curate of West Lavington, and the Rev. J. E. T. Rogers, M.A., Professor of Political Economy at Oxford, awaited in the porch the arrival of the procession, and as soon as the last flight of steps had been mounted, led the way into the body of the church.

The solemn burial service was then begun, which, always impressive, in this case appealed with peculiar force to every one who heard it; and on quitting the building to perform the last mournful duty of the day there were few eyes which did not exhibit traces of emotion. When it is mentioned that the parishioners of West Lavington are less than 200 in number, it will be evident that the church could not contain a tenth of the persons present. The remainder, therefore, placed themselves at various points of the churchyard from which a view of the further proceedings could be gained, the terrace in which the vault had been constructed being reserved for members of Parliament and the immediate friends of the deceased. When the coffin was laid down, and the pall removed preparatory to the final ceremony, it was seen that some loving hand had strewed the lid with violets and other flowers of spring, and that a small but exquisitely arranged bouquet had been affixed to the head of the coffin. To this was added, in the same spirit, just at the conclusion of the service, a floral wreath by some friend of the deceased. When the coffin was lowered everybody bent forward to look at the short and simple inscription:—

RICHARD COBDEN, ESQ.,  
M.P.

DIED 2ND OF APRIL, 1865,  
AGED 60 YEARS;

—and as instinctively every one drew back at the solemn words, "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust," which the Rev. Mr. Currie accompanied by dropping with his own hand the customary fragments of mould upon the coffin, where they lay in sad suggestive contrast to the cheerful flowers. Many of the friends and fellow-workers with the late Mr. Cobden, Mr. Villiers especially, were perceptibly agitated at this point. Many carried their glances on towards the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but his is not a face on which emotions can be traced like clouds reflected on the surface of a lake. See that his features were of a corresponding hue, they might have been marble for all the expression he allowed them to assume. In Mr. Bright's case no repression of sentiment was possible; it is doubtful whether he would have acted wisely in making the attempt. He fairly broke down, and sobbed bitterly. There was scarcely any one, even of Mr. Cobden's own family, who seemed to feel his loss so acutely. The proceedings ended as they began, worthily. Not a single incident occurred to detract from the force of this mute but most eloquent testimony to the worth of him whose place is vacant.

In connection with the funeral of the late Mr. Cobden, the following letter from the Bishop of Oxford, who owns an estate in the neighbourhood, will be read with interest:—

My dear Mr. Fisher,—I am much obliged to you for your note. It would have been a sad satisfaction to me to have been able to pay that mark of respect to the great Sussex Englishman who has been, for us so prematurely, taken away. But I am barely recovering myself from a severe bronchial affection, and am only allowed at present to go out with precautions and conditions which make me quite unable to venture to Lavington on Friday. Would you let any of his friends who would care to know it, know the reason of my absence?

I feel his loss deeply; I think it a great national loss. But my feelings dwell rather on the loss of such a man, whom I hope it is not too much for me to venture to call my friend. His gentleness of nature, the tenderness and freshness of his affections, his exceeding modesty, his master love of truth, and his ready and kindly sympathy—these invested him with an unusual charm for me. How deeply I feel for his wife and for his daughters!

I am, my dear Mr. Fisher, ever most truly yours,

S. OXON.

At Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Bradford, and other large towns in the North, shops were closed during part of the day. All the chief warehouses at Manchester were closed after Exchange hours—two o'clock. In many parts of the metropolis the shutters were partially raised.

At a public meeting held at Bradford on Thursday, presided over by the Mayor, an address of condolence to Mrs. Cobden and her family was adopted. It is also proposed to erect in the town some lasting memorial in his memory.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* says that an impression gains ground very generally that "Ministers will propose to the House of Commons a vote of a sum of money in testimony of the nation's sense of gratitude for the pre-eminent services rendered by Mr. Cobden, and which may serve as a moderate, but adequate, provision for his family, whose interests he might certainly have cared for more abundantly had its thoughts for years past been less engrossed by those of the public."

On Sunday, while in English churches and chapels reverent and affectionate allusion was made to the beautiful and fruitful life just ended, solemn services were held in honour of the departed statesman in the Cathedral and Protestant church of Belgrade, by special order of Prince Michael. His Highness wished thus to "recognise the services rendered by Richard Cobden to the cause of humanity and of Servia."

A Manchester paper publishes the following letter from Mr. Hadfield, M.P.:—

Sir,—Various methods of showing respect to the memory of the late Richard Cobden have been suggested, and I beg to offer a hint to those who respected the man, and profited by his labours. He has left his country in charge of an estimable widow and five daughters, to whom we may exhibit our respect by a national gift of 100,000*l.*, and make "the widow's heart sing for joy." Let us not leave this work to French or American enterprise, but let us do it ourselves. My 50*l.* will be ready at the nation's call for it.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE HADFIELD.

Victoria-park, 6th April, 1864.

#### ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

WESTMINSTER.—On Thursday night, a meeting of Liberal electors of Westminster was held in St. James's Hall, and a thorough determination to carry the election, if possible, of Mr. John Stuart Mill appears to have animated the proceeding. Resolutions recognising the hon. gentleman as a candidate, and inviting public subscriptions to defray the contingent expenses, which, it was stated, would not amount to more than 1,200*l.*, were carried with enthusiasm. Mr. Roebuck, M.P., Professor Fawcett, Mr. Mason Jones, Mr. Christie, and other gentlemen took part in the proceedings.

GREENWICH.—Several candidates are spoken of in connection with the vacancy which will be caused by the decision of Mr. Angerstein, M.P., to contest West Kent in the Liberal interest. A meeting of the Liberal electors of Woolwich, Charlton, and Plumstead, has been privately convened, to take into consideration the present state of the representation, and it is said that a requisition is to be presented to Mr. John Penn, the eminent engineer, requesting him to become a candidate.

YORK.—Mr. J. P. Brown-Westhead and Mr. Ald. Leeman have consented to come forward as candidates in the Radical interest.

ROCHDALE.—Mr. T. B. Potter, of Buile Hill, Manchester, son of the late Sir Thomas Potter, has received a unanimous invitation from the Reform Association of Rochdale to become the Liberal candidate for the borough. Mr. Potter was the intimate personal and political friend of Mr. Cobden, whose views he shared, and who appointed him one of his executors. Mr. Brett, Q.C., has announced his intention to stand for the borough in the Conservative interest.

There was a numerous meeting of Liberal electors on Monday night to select a candidate in the place of the late Mr. Cobden. Mr. G. L. Ashworth proposed Mr. Thomas Potter, of Manchester, and the motion having been seconded, Mr. Bright supported the nomination in an address of considerable length. He said they had two candidates before them, between whom there was a wide and essential difference, and a man must be most ignorant and stupid if he could not perceive it. This the hon. member proved by showing the obstructive influence of Toryism during the last thirty years. He also referred in half sarcastic terms to the profession and speech of the Tory candidate, and, in concluding a most eloquent speech, during which he had been, with a portion of his audience, melted to tears in referring to the late Mr. Cobden, he said he should feel ashamed wherever he went to acknowledge he was one of the Rochdale constituency if, after the bright example it had had of late years, it should turn its back upon itself, upon its own principles, upon its own interests, upon all that it held sacred, by returning a man whose politics would reverse the very dial on the face of time, and turn back to an age of political barbarism and universal discontent. Mr. Potter was then introduced amidst general cheering, and made a brief speech, which was loudly applauded. The whole meeting was extremely enthusiastic.

MACCLESFIELD.—Mr. David Chadwick, of Manchester, addressed the Liberal electors of Macclesfield on Wednesday night, and was accepted by them as their second candidate in the ensuing election.

WEST KENT.—Mr. William Angerstein and Mr. John Lubbock have consented to become the Liberal candidates for the representation of the division at the next general election.

#### Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen again held a Court on Thursday. Her Majesty was accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal family, and the Court was attended by members of both Houses of Parliament and other persons in high rank and position in the country. Her Majesty returned to Windsor in the evening.

The Queen visited the Horticultural Gardens on Thursday morning, and inspected the new orchid house, with which her Majesty was much pleased, as well as with the general appearance of the gardens. The South Court of the South Kensington Museum was afterwards inspected. Her Majesty expressed her satisfaction with what she had seen.

On Friday evening her Majesty the Queen gave a juvenile party at Windsor Castle, in honour of the birthday of Prince Leopold.

The King of the Belgians, who is at present residing at Windsor Castle on a visit to the Queen, has been suffering from indisposition. His Majesty was much better by the last report.

The Prince of Wales held a *levée* on Wednesday at St. James's Palace. It was most numerously attended.

The Princess Helena will, it is announced, hold the next drawing room on behalf of the Queen, on May 16th.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, with the infant Prince, left London for Sandringham on Saturday.

It is reported that the Prince of Wales will be the President of the English Royal Commission to promote the Paris Universal Exhibition.

The Earl Russell has been suffering from a severe cold, and, in consequence, was unable to attend the Cabinet Council on Wednesday last. He has gone to his seat near Stroud.

Sir Charles Douglas, having been suffering for some days from a bronchial affection, was prevented from attending the funeral of Mr. Cobden on Friday last.

The Medical Department of the Council have already despatched Dr. Whitley to St. Petersburg, and Dr. Sanderson to Dantzig and Elbing to report upon the alarming epidemic. Next week Dr. Thudcombe will proceed to another chief seat of the disease.

The Civil Service Estimates for colonial, consular, and other foreign services, for the year ending March 31, 1866, amounted to 476,106*l.*, showing a decrease on last year of 82,257*l.*

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston arrived at Windsor Castle on Saturday, and had the honour of dining with her Majesty and the Royal family.

A deputation from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society had an interview with the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, at the Colonial Office, on Friday.

At the annual celebration of the Philadelphia Dental College, held in that city on March 1st, the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery was conferred on Mr. W. H. Waite, eldest son of the Rev. J. J. Waite, of Hereford. Dr. W. H. Waite returns to this country to practise his profession.

#### Miscellaneous News.

SURREY CHAPEL POPULAR LECTURES.—On Monday evening, there was a large attendance to hear a lecture on "Cobden and Cassell," delivered by Mr. G. M. Murphy. W. Webb, Esq., occupied the chair. Next Monday the Rev. Newman Hall will deliver the last address of what has been a most successful season. There will also be a musical entertainment.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. JOHN CASSELL.—The funeral of the late Mr. John Cassell, the publisher, took place at four o'clock on Saturday, at Kensal-green Cemetery. The funeral procession consisted of a hearse and twelve mourning coaches, containing the relatives, friends, partakers, and principal literary and other employés belonging to the establishment of the deceased. There was also in attendance a deputation from the National Temperance League, consisting of Mr. George Cruikshank and other gentlemen. On arriving at the gates of the cemetery, the mournful procession was joined by a large number of the hands employed in the printing, publishing, and other establishments belonging to the firm with which the deceased was connected. There was also a considerable crowd around the grave, amongst whom might be recognised Mr. Beggs, Mr. G. M. Murphy, the Rev. Dawson Burns, and other friends of the deceased.

HOME FOR LITTLE BOYS.—On Saturday afternoon, the anniversary meeting of the friends and supporters of this excellent institution was held at the Children's Home, Tottenham, on which occasion about 150 ladies and gentlemen sat down to luncheon, provided by Mr. R. Hanbury, M.P., the president of the institution. The luncheon was held in a tent on the lawn, and as the day was remarkably fine and warm, it was far pleasanter than crowding the company into a room. Previous to sitting down to luncheon the visitors inspected the home, which presented an appearance of cleanliness, neatness, and comfort. There are at present fifty-six children in it, some of whom are received free, boarded, clothed, and educated till they are eleven years of age, and others are admitted to its advantages by the payment of five shillings a week. They must all be under ten years of age when admitted, but as a matter of fact they range from four to ten, and are composed, generally speaking, of the most destitute class; so that, if not provided for in the home, they would unquestionably become little Arabs about the streets. The institution was formed in consequence of its being found that upwards of 300 little children under ten are apprehended yearly by the police and charged with offences before the magistrates. It owes a great deal to the exertions of Mr. Hanbury, who took the matter up, and with the aid of some friends established the home on the basis of providing for 100 of these little outcasts. During the past year its advantages have been so appreciated that applications for the admission of a far greater number of children than could be provided for out of the limited funds of the society were made. There is at present accommodation for 100, and the results of Saturday's proceedings will be that a considerable number of new elections will take place. Mr. R. Hanbury, who presided, stated that the annual cost of a boy in the institution was 13*l.*, and therefore that yearly subscribers of that amount were entitled to place one in it free. The report, which was read by Mr. A. O. Charles, the honorary secretary, was of a very satisfactory description, showing that the operations of the society for the first year had been most successful, and that the institution had supplied a want which was not met by any of the existing orphan asylums or kindred institutions. Addresses in behalf of the Home were made by Lord Charles Russell and Judge Payne, the former of whom threw out a challenge to subscribe 6*l.* 10*s.* annually if any lady or gentleman would subscribe a similar amount, so as to place an additional boy in the Home. Subsequently the challenge was accepted, and two or three other annual subscriptions of a like amount were announced. The children were introduced into the tent, and passed round it. They seemed very healthy and very happy. They afterwards sang various hymns, and the afternoon was devoted to sports and pastimes. The proceedings of the day were very encouraging, and subscriptions in aid of the society were announced to the extent of between 300*l.* and 400*l.*

Mr. Cobden's death makes the twelfth vacancy that has occurred during the few weeks that the House of Commons has sat.

## Literature.

## KING JOHN VINDICATED.\*

It is a feature of our times to inquire somewhat more critically than has been heretofore done, into the verdicts recorded by history upon famous characters. In some cases it may have been mere caprice that has sought to reverse a decision of the past. In others, the justice of the demand for a new trial has been allowed; and the world has learnt, either to render honour and reverence which it had long wrongfully withheld, or on, the other hand, to loathe an idol to which it had ignorantly bowed down. The most conspicuous examples of such change of estimation, are perhaps our own Cromwell and Elizabeth. Elizabeth has not indeed sunk so greatly as Cromwell has risen; but in either case, the general alteration of feeling during the last fifty years has been very marked. In Roman history, again, while Caesar stands higher in the estimation of the world than perhaps he ever did before—save when the magnificence of his clemency momentarily subdued all hearts—we have learnt to look upon those who slew him as little better than common assassins;—Brutus himself being but a pinchbeck philosopher. Tiberius and Domitian too, have, so far as their imperial ability and wisdom are concerned (it would be idle to defend their private moral character), been more or less “vindicated.” On the other hand, the world will probably continue to think pretty much the same of such worthies as Richard III. and Henry VIII. of England, Tilly the Imperialist commander, and Cleon the Athenian demagogue, in spite of the ingenious and elaborate pleadings that have been entered on their behalf by admirers. Perhaps, in former times there may have been too much tendency to make out every eminent person to be either saint or devil. The black deeds of such a man as Henry VIII.—which even Mr. Froude, though he palliates, cannot deny—testify to the presence of such an ungoverned spirit of evil, that one is ready to think of him as unmixedly evil; yet nothing is more certain that in much of his dealing he showed a true regard for the welfare and honour of England, and that, at least in the earlier, and perhaps in the larger, part of his reign he was accessible to lofty and generous impulses. And something similar may need to be taken into consideration in the case of others beside him whose historical characters are simply black. Only let us beware of hastily, and without ample reason, impeaching that testimony of the past, the general good faith of which—whatever its inaccuracies in detail—is one of the fundamental postulates of history.

Mr. Chadwick, in the volume before us, asks for a revision of the sentence of history, passed, with such singular unanimity, upon King John. He has come to the conclusion that the John of history is a totally false character—a sheer “phantasm.” The John of history was a poltroon—Mr. Chadwick’s John is a pattern of energy and courage; the John of history was cruel beyond even the standard of Norman kings—Mr. Chadwick’s John is both solicitous of equity and of a spirit “gentle as any woman’s”; the John of history plunged England into unprecedented humiliations at home and abroad—Mr. Chadwick’s John is the staunch maintainer of the dignity and independence of England, and only thwarted in his noble purposes by the selfishness and poltroonery of the “pigeon-livered” feudatories who play into the hands of his rival, Louis of France, and the Pope. In all previous histories, the Great Charter floats aloft, as the banner which ennobles a reign otherwise simply and without mitigation disgraceful—according to Mr. Chadwick the confederacy of Runnymede was nothing better than a contemptible “French conspiracy”!

Our author is certainly not diverting himself with a *tour de force*. He is fiercely in earnest; and at times seems at a loss to find words intense enough to express his contempt for the miserable slanderers—as he again and again declares the monkish chroniclers to be—who have blackened the fair fame of this “right noble king.” Even his index—cool and dispassioned as such documents are wont to be—bears traces of the impetuosity with which he throws himself into the quarrel. Thus one is a little amused at meeting with such a reference as “Worry, p. 79”; and finding at the place indicated, that under this laconic heading are included the movements of Langton and the Barons directed to the obtaining of the great Charter. It is “Charter-worry”! So again the well-known and revolting story of John’s cruelty to a Bristol Jew is indexed as—“Tooth-drawing nonsense.” There is, indeed, no

room for doubting that the result of the author’s researches has been his own sincere conviction of the soundness of his somewhat paradoxical positions; and we must endeavour to lay before our readers the main grounds upon which they are reated.

First, then, Mr. Chadwick challenges *en masse* the honesty of the witnesses on whose testimony John has been condemned. The chroniclers of the time—such as Matthew of Paris, Roger de Wendover, Roger de Hoveden—were for the most part monks; and, as such, he urges, were necessarily prejudiced against one who, whatever his other good or bad qualities, cared little for priests and monks, and became the declared enemy of the Church. Further, he urges, John was cast upon evil time\*. The Crusades had absorbed the true blood and mettle of the English nobility; and, consequently, the sentiments expressed towards John by the Barons are unworthy of being regarded as the authentic voice of the people of England. But, chiefly, Mr. Chadwick relies upon the documentary evidence of the Rolls’ Office, as alone furnishing evidence amply sufficient in itself to clear John from the odious charges brought against him.

Let us endeavour candidly to review the considerations laid before us. And in doing so, the most grave question of all is this—are our historical witnesses trustworthy, or are they to be put of court as corrupt? Of course, when we speak of their trustworthiness, we use the word in no chimerical sense. We do not expect a monk of Croyland or of Westminster to be exempt from prejudice any more than a Lingard or a Macaulay of the present day. But did they, to the best of their information, write down the things that actually took place, or did they not? That is the question to be answered. And, making all allowance for gossiping and scandal-mongering tendencies, which the atmosphere of the cloister may have favoured—we believe they did. Nor are we able to see any sufficient reason for special spite on the part of the monks against King John. Henry II. was much the more dangerous foe of Papal and priestly pretensions, as the Constitutions of Clarendon sufficiently prove: John, though he certainly defied the Papal power, and drew down upon his all-too-feeble head both Interdict and Excommunication, became the favoured son of the Church, and was actually supported by the whole strength of Roman influence—then, with Innocent for Pope, at its very *acme*—during the struggle with the Barons which ensued upon the King’s violation of the compact of Runnymede. The Holy Father had granted full absolution, having himself become the feudal lord paramount of the Crown of England by John’s own act and consent: surely, the under-servants and agents of the Papal See would not be more unrelenting than their spiritual Head. More than this, in the opinion of the dispassionate and enlightened Mackintosh, we have reason to believe that some of the contemporary chroniclers were actually biased in the very opposite direction by fear of John himself. Referring to the silence of some of them with reference to the death of Arthur, that writer remarks, that they could have had no reason for not at least noticing the disappearance of that unfortunate Prince, “but their conviction of the guilt of John.” On these, if on no other grounds, we refuse to admit Mr. Chadwick’s impeachment of the veracity of the witnesses against his client.

Let us look to his next great point—the craven “poltroonery” and “treason” of John’s Barons. Mr. Chadwick of course sees that, in order to defend John, we must be prepared to believe the worst of those who so repeatedly thwarted and defied him. Now, be it understood, we do not mean to defend all the steps resorted to by the Barons. Their offering of the crown to Louis, indeed, is an act that can scarcely be justified. But we do assert, that the sweeping charges brought against the bulk of the nobility of the time, require very much stronger evidence to establish them than any that is here adduced; and that it is past belief that a king, chosen, as our author likes to urge, by the general consent of the country—*ab universitate regni*—should, without signal misconduct on his part, draw upon him the hatred of the whole of his nobility;—a nobility, too, whose interests were substantially identical with his own. Undoubtedly, a variety of motives propelled them in their grand “Treason”—as Mr. Chadwick will have it.

Some followed their family leaders, many were actuated chiefly by hatred for a tyrant and bitter sense of personal wrong; but, with all its imperfections, the Great Charter breathes throughout a different spirit from that of mere revenge, and is indeed more remarkable for the extent to which it asserts the rights of the commonalty, than even for its vindication of the Barons themselves. We leave it to Mr. Chadwick to chuckle over the ingenious discovery, that the immortal document was legally worthless, inasmuch as the transfer of seigniorial rights to the Pope had in fact re-

duced the tenants *in capite* to the position of “copyholders”!

Lastly, what is the value of Mr. Chadwick’s findings in that rich and apparently inexhaustible mine, the Rolls Office? We are sorry to be obliged to record our deliberate conviction that it is simply—nil. A few of his documents are certainly interesting in themselves; but there really is not one that furnishes a particle of evidence in contradiction of the main charges brought against John. The chief of these are, of course,—that not only did he divorce his first wife, but that he treated his second, Isabella, with penuriousness and cruelty;—that he killed his nephew, Arthur of Brittany, perhaps with his own hand;—that he practised cruel extortion upon the Jews and others;—that he even gloried in the unlawful gratification of his sensual appetites;—that, in all his administration of the affairs of his realm, his conduct presented a miserable inconsistency between braggart professions and cowardly imbecility. What is the nature of the documents on which Mr. Chadwick relies to disprove charges so grave? We must endeavour briefly to indicate.

And we will take first the case of John’s alleged treatment of his wife. Mr. Chadwick here adduces in disproof of the generally accepted charges certain writs. Let us see what these amount to, that we may rightly conceive of the “Facts” with which he confronts what he describes as the “Pleasures of Imagination.” The first of this series, then, is simply the “Charter of the Lady the Queen Isabella on her Dowry;” the second, an order addressed to the constable of the Queen’s manor, to provide the Queen with “a competent and domestic robe, such as is becoming for her to wear”; the third, a similar requisition, addressed to certain honest men of Bristol, “to find for her the necessities of life.” Those immediately following are of the subsequent reign, and so remotely, if at all, connected with the matter, that we may be excused entering into any particulars respecting them. The next is addressed to the Sheriff of Gloucestershire, apprising him of the fact of Isabella being sent for safer custody to Gloucester Castle, and requiring him “to find what is necessary” for her and her escort while remaining there. In this writ it is expressly named that the Queen “our wife” comes to Gloucester with Theodore Teuton “and one horse,” attended by one Master Peter and his crossbowmen. The next is the corresponding letter of instructions to Theodore Teuton himself; the next, a “command” addressed to the Queen for the “delivery of a hostage”; the next, an order addressed to Theodore Teuton for moneys “to pay the wages of servants in our castle of Berkhamstead”—the Queen’s manor; the last is the writ for the appointment of Walerand Tenton, meanwhile in charge of the “Queen’s household” at Berkhamstead, to the office of Sheriff of Hertfordshire.

Now what does all this parade of original research prove? Simply *NOTHING* that can in any degree affect the question under consideration. The documents produced disprove in no degree either John’s alleged harshness to Isabella, or his unfaithfulness to her as shown by reckless and unprincipled amours.

Again, a formidable accumulation of writs and other documents is laid before us, in order to destroy the credibility of John’s alleged cruelties to Jews. It would be imposing too far upon the patience of our readers to enter into any detailed examination of these. Suffice it to say that they consist chiefly of promises of protection to Jews of England,—belonging to the opening of John’s reign,—and orders for the discharge of liabilities incurred by sundry persons to Jewish money-lenders. With regard to the latter, we greatly doubt the reliability of the author’s conclusion that the sums referred to were in every case to be reimbursed out of the Royal exchequer. Be this, however, as it may, there is one among the Jew-writs too plain in its language to admit of a doubt as to its iniquitous intent. We cannot avoid quoting this *verbatim*:

“The King, et cetera, to Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, health in the Lord.—Know ye that we have given to our dearly beloved R., Earl of Leicester, fifty shillings of land in Bellegrave, which should have been Aaron the Jew’s, and on which account the same Earl shall return fifty shillings per annum to our Exchequer; and therefore we command you that you make the said Earl to be acquitted for the payment of the aforesaid £ shillings. I myself attesting, at Montfort, on xxvij. day of July (A.D. 1203).”

If this very writ be not itself an illustration of high-handed injustice—the same spirit with the tyranny which is said to have drawn the teeth of that poor Jew at Bristol—we totally misapprehend the meaning of the document. Equally wide of the mark, in our judgment, are the documents introduced with a view to acquitting John of blame in connection with the wife of Eustace de Vesci—one of the victims of his ungoverned passions. Like those above referred to, they prove nothing. But we have already transgressed our limits in space,

\* *King John of England; a History and Vindication, based on the Original Authorities.* By WILLIAM CHADWICK. London: J. R. Smith.

and must not carry this cross-examination further. Suffice it to say, that while it is very possible that some of the particulars of John's villainy may have been heightened by historians, yet that the present author has adduced nothing that can, to any considerable degree, abate the universal contempt in which his memory has been involved.

**"DONT STAMMER":—"THE IRRATIONAL OF SPEECH."\***

"How did the human race ever make the surprising discovery that objects might be denoted by symbols, by names?—and how did they communicate that discovery to each other?" A very puzzling question, truly, to start with; and one which, unless faith leaps to a conclusion, may best be met with the modest and truthful protest, that "true science, so far from explaining phenomena, only shows that they are inexplicable." But it is to something not less wonderful that another question points,—what is this gift "of articulation, which a man has in common with the parrot and the daw"? Aye, and how is it that he loses it?—and why do some people stammer? What are the physical causes of that most unpleasant non-accomplishment?—and is there any way in the world of delivering from manifest abuse the lips, the tongue, the jaw, and the breath, of stammerers? We are sorry to believe that not a few may read these words, to whom these questions are by no means funny or unimportant.

Well, it is not likely that we should often be led to the detailed notice of an old magazine article;—but we have such a one before us now, in all the dignity of reproduction in some thirty pages—which it well deserves. And this brochure may have not only attractiveness, but a very high usefulness, to those who—let us say no more than those who "hesitate" in reading these lines. "The Irationale of Speech" appeared in *Fraser* some six years ago. Its main practical point is, that the writer has suffered all the miseries of being a stammerer—though probably not a strongly-pronounced one; and that, having found perfect relief under the counsel and discipline of Dr. Hunt, he is stirred by gratitude and by goodwill to his fellow hesitants, to talk good-humouredly and wisely with them of what they may do and must avoid in order to cure. It is delightful reading, and of great practical value. To sustain this opinion of it, need we say more than that the anonymous writer is no other than CHARLES KINGSLEY.

Commanding, then, this reprint to all who endure the unspeakable torment of stammering, let us simply justify that commendation by extract.

"Whosoever can afford an enervated body and an abject character, the stammerer cannot. With him it is a question of life and death. He must make a man of himself, or be liable to his tormentor to the last.

"Let him, therefore, eschew all base perturbations of mind; all cowardice, servility, meanness, vanity, and hankering after admiration; for these all will make many a man, by a just judgment, stammer on the spot. Let him, for the same reason, eschew all anger, peevishness, haste, even pardonable eagerness. In a word, let him eschew the root of all evil, selfishness and self-seeking; for he will surely find that whosoever he begins thinking about himself, then is the dumb devil of stammering close at his elbow. Let him eschew, too, all superstition, whether of that abject kind which fancies that it can please God by a starved body and a hang-dog visage, which pretends to be afraid to look mankind in the face, or of that more openly self-conceited kind which upsets the balance of the reason by hysterical raptures and self-glorying assumptions. Let him eschew, lastly, all which can weaken either nerves or digestion; all sexual excesses, all intemperance in drink or in food, whether gross or effeminate, remembering that it is as easy to be unwholesomely glutinous over hot slops and cold ices as over beef and beer.

"Let him avoid those same hot slops (to go on with the *corpus sanguinis*), and all else which will injure his wind and his digestion, and let him betake himself to all manly exercises which will put him into wind, and keep him in it. Let him, if he can, ride, and ride hard, remembering that (so does horse exercise expand the lungs and oxygenate the blood) there has been at least one frightful stammerer now who spoke perfectly plainly as long as he was in the saddle. Let him play rackets and fives, row, and box; for all these amusements strengthen those muscles of the chest and abdomen which are certain to be in his case weak. Above all, let him box; for so will 'the noble art of self-defence' become to him over and above a healing art. If he doubt this assertion, let him (or indeed any narrow-chested porer over desks) hit out right and left for five minutes at a point on the wall as high as his own face (hitting, of course, not from the elbow, like a woman, but from the loin, like a man, and keeping his breath during the exercise as long as he can), and he will soon become aware of his weak point by a severe pain in the epigastric region, in the same spot which pains him after a convulsion of stammering. Then let him try boxing regularly, daily; and he will find that

it teaches him to look a man not merely in the face, but in the very eye's core; to keep his chest expanded, his lungs full of air; to be calm and steady under excitement; and lastly, to use all those muscles of the torso on which deep and healthy respiration depends. And let him, now in these very days, join a rifle-club, and learn in it to carry himself with the erect and noble port which is all but peculiar to the soldier, but ought to be the common habit of every man; let him learn to march, and more, to trot under arms without losing breath; and by such means make himself an active, healthy, and valiant man.

"Meanwhile, let him learn again the art of speaking; and having learnt, think before he speaks, and say his say calmly, with self-respect, as a man who does not talk at random, and has a right to a courteous answer. Let him fix in his mind that there is nothing on earth to be ashamed of, save doing wrong, and no being to be feared save Almighty God; and so go on making the best of the body and the soul which heaven has given him, and I will warrant that in a few months his old misery of stammering will lie behind him, as an ugly and all but impossible dream when one awakes in the morning."

Perhaps we must allow that this is an extreme statement of the stammerer's proper discipline; but we fully believe that the case required to be put very strongly. In recommending Dr. James Hunt's book to his readers, Mr. Kingsley avows that he would have it placed in the hands of *all* preachers:—not without reason; for how sadly true is the following:—

"Many a preacher has one heard utter words at which one has looked anxiously round the church, in hopes of finding as many as possible asleep—and not, thank heaven, in vain. But supposing that a man has (as very many have) something to say worth saying, why will he not take no trouble whatsoever to learn the right method of saying it? Look at an average Low-Church clergyman in an average country pulpit. Why, when he is uttering words which if true—and a great deal of them is but too true—should make angels weep and devils tremble, are his eyes fixed on his book, his chin bent down on his breast, his jaw fixed as by paralysis, his lips hanging motionless and apart, and his voice droning forth in a monotone as a bee in a bottle? Not so did Henry Martyn and Simeon, not so did Wesley or Whitfield, strike barbed arrows to the hearts of living men. But they believed what they said, and perhaps the poor man does not. Not that he is a conscious hypocrite: heaven forbid! But he does not believe: he only believes in believing. He has got his doctrine by rote, at second-hand, out of a book. It is not life of his life, and thought of his thought; if you translated it for him out of his conventional school phraseology into plain every-day English he would not know it again; if, instead of talking of 'sanctification,' you spoke of 'being made good,' he would stare at you, and suspect Arminianism, Pantheism, Pottheism, or the last found heresy of which he has read in his religious paper. No. He does not believe, in the sense in which Wesley believed; and he is half conscious of that fact at moments, for every now and then he wakes himself up with a half-impatient jerk, and tries to lay a little emphasis on a preposition or an article—as who should say in his heart, 'No! I am in earnest after all, and I'll show it. I say, Christian brethren, don't you see I am in earnest?' Poor man! He cannot do it. He knows not the trick of art: and the trick of nature—the self-taught eloquence which comes from intense and passionate conviction, from clear imaginative vision, he has it not, and never will have. That eloquence of belief we cannot give him; but in default of that, shall we send him to Mr. Hunt, and subscribe for a few elocution lessons for him? Shall we awaken him to the ugly fact that he knows simply nothing about the trade which he professes? that, having the most momentous of all duties to do, he has never learnt or tried to learn how to do that same, from the day he entered orders till now? Perhaps we may, if he will promise us one thing—not to use his faculty, when he acquires it, for the purpose of reviling and insulting his congregation. The smallest child knows how to scold, and so may that man if once he finds his tongue."

A recent passage at arms in which all Christian Englishmen were interested, will not have diminished the influence of the following description, which goes beyond discourse of stammering or of common pulpit faults:—

"Twenty years ago, when there were giants in the earth, among Tractarians as among others, stood in that pulpit a great genius and a great orator, who knew how to use his voice. Perfectly still he stood, disdaining the slightest show of passion, trusting to eye and voice alone—to the eye, which looked through and through every soul with the fascination of a serpent; to the voice, most sweet and yet most dreadful, which was monotonous indeed: but monotonous with full intent and meaning, carrying home to the heart, with its delicate and deliberate articulation, every syllable of words which one would have too gladly escaped; words which laid bare the inmost fibres of the heart, and showed to each his basest and his weakest spot, and with their passionless and yet not untender cynicism, made the cheeks of strong men flame, whom all the thunders of a Spurgeon would only have roused to manly scorn.

"Oh, thou great and terrible—soothsayer, shall I call thee? or prophet? Why art thou worse than dead to Englishmen? Why is thy once sweet voice all jarr'd, thy once pure taste all foul'd, by bitter spite and insult to thy native land? Why hast thou taken thyself in the net of thine own words, and bewildered thy subtle brain with thy more subtle tongue?"

We shall only add, that Mr. Kingsley is needlessly offensive in his allusions to Mr. Spurgeon; and that he goes rather out of his way to declare that a great quack who attempted to trade upon the reputation of "the elder Hunt"—father of Dr. James Hunt, and the inventor of the "system" for the cure of stammerers—was a "Wesleyan deacon."

We have indulged large quotation considering that the publication is one of few pages, and is already known to the readers of *Fraser*: but

we believe the subject and the special matter will justify us.

The *sixth* edition of Dr. Hunt's work, now before us, will be best commended by our notice of Mr. Kingsley's pamphlet; and requires no more than a word to remind our readers that the author's plan for curing impediments of speech consists simply in the application of known laws of physiology and psychology.

**MAGAZINES OF THE MONTH.**

(Continued.)

*Fraser* contains an article which will greatly assist the removal of any possible impression that it is one-sided and unfair on the American question; for, if the Southern Confederacy has derived any advantage in English opinion from the representations its pages have contained, it may be supposed that the gratification will be experienced in another quarter which may happen to be created by the paper entitled, "A Visit to General Butler and the Army of the James,"—in which what appears, from its freedom from all extravagance and all special pleading, to be something like plain justice, is done to one who has been about the best abused man of the time. Something of personal description is accompanied by evidence of his undeniable ability, particularly as shown in the complete and rapid discharge of his duties as a military commander, legislator, and judge. Explanations are offered as to the one great charge against him, that he has made an undue use of his high position to acquire wealth for himself and relatives; the general effect of these explanations being, that he entered on the war with commercial investments hanging around him, that he had the sagacity to foresee that the war must last for some years, and that the success which from these and other natural causes has attended him, has not unnaturally given rise to suspicions which are not justified by facts. His severity in certain cases is said to have been necessary in order to quell fury and violence by great examples. His notorious proclamation is admitted to have been worded unfortunately, but is said to have been greatly misunderstood, as it only extended a police regulation, enjoined by statute law of the city, to those whose conduct in public was insulting, and who by such conduct caused themselves to resemble the persons against whom that regulation was originally directed. It is further urged that even the inhabitants of New Orleans now admit that General Butler "restored order, punished 'crime, opened commerce, and gave complete protection" to the people of the place. If we cannot receive all this without any hesitation, we can yet see good reason why Butler should only smile at the imputation of being no more than a brute and a butcher. An article on "The Court of Rome—its Parties and its Men" throws great light on the state of the Papacy, shows the Pope as given up to monkish mysticism, as having willingly permitted Jesuit ascendancy, as incapable of a policy, and explains the relations in which he stands to one of so different an inward nature as Cardinal Antonelli. The writer evidently has such knowledge as comparatively few possess, and the paper will be read with lively interest by all who turn their eyes sympathetically to Italy and inquiringly to Rome. "The Embankment of the Thames" is one of the best papers that has been written on that subject so interesting to Londoners. There is much amusement and something more in the account of "what they are doing in Edinburgh," which appears under the general heading of "Nooks and Byways." The third part of the "Parish Priest" is occupied with preaching; and a great many most sensible remarks and suggestive hints are thrown out by the writer, who does not seem to share much of the feeling of those who "cry down the pulpit in comparison with the altar, and affect contempt for the sermon." He bids preachers and hearers observe that sermons are the distinguishing characteristic of the work of the Apostles in the diffusion of Christianity. He warns against the error of those who would cure the dulness of their sermons, and adapt them as they think to the times, by introducing something of science and the various eloquies: calls them to use the Bible as their "store of working tools," to make "truth their aim," "the Bible their bow and arrow," and to let the speciality of the sermon be that it is neither an ecclesiastical essay nor a warm exhortation, but that "it is Scriptural, and appeals to, and depends for its efficacy upon the omnipotent influence which we call the Word of God, and which is prominent in the Holy Scriptures." Those who may not be able to agree with the implicit views of the Bible and of the ultimate objects of preaching as we find them lying in some passages of this paper, will yet agree that it most valuably protests for what is most necessary to be known, to be ever remembered, and to be reduced to practice, by those who would be powerful and wise preachers, and who would maintain the superior influence of the living word to the type of which men are now disposed to boast, as the great agent in modern religious instruction.

In *Blackwood*, we have Cornelius O'Dowd again, tolerably amusing on Rain-registries and on Newspapers, attempting also political wisdom on "Changing House"—the real subject being the removal of the seat of the Italian Government, and very mildly satirical on Lord Russell under the head of "The Rope Trick." A

\* *The Irationale of Speech.* By A MINUTE PHILOSOPHER. Reprinted from *Fraser's Magazine* for July, 1859. Longman and Co.

\* *Stammering and Stuttering; their Nature and Treatment.* By JAMES HUNT, Ph.D., F.S.A., &c. Sixth Edition. Longman and Co.

review of "Lord Derby's Translation of the Iliad," has some fairly good remarks on special passages, but is, for the most part, in the vein of—"It is indeed a high gratification to see the great leader of the Conservative party employing his brief leisure from political strife in presenting to his countrymen the strains of the most ancient of poets in imperishable English verse," and he has "put it within the power of the general English public, as it never was before in the same degree, to become acquainted with an author on so many accounts so interesting." Homer, "on many accounts so interesting"! and Lord Derby praised for appreciating him as "the great Conservative leader"! will his lordship thank his critic for such commendation of "his grand harmonious verse"? Lord Derby's *Iliad* deserved better usage. An article on the reissue of Earl Russell's Essay on the English Government and Constitution is thoroughly Blackwoodian; but is unquestionably right in charging on the noble author the mistake of attributing to *party* that change in the policy of this country, and in some degree in the constitution itself, which time and circumstances, the greatest of all innovators, have in point of fact brought about. And we can almost sympathise with the complaint against the absence of dignity and firmness in our foreign policy. "Miss Marjoribanks" and "Piccadilly" are cleverly continued.

In the *Family Treasury*—altogether excellent—is a second part of the interesting and truthful tale "Winifred Bertram," by the author of the "Schönberg-Cotta Family"—one of our best new writers in the particular vein of religious story.

The *Christian Witness*, under its new editorship, has become a worthy representative of Congregational Independence, and a powerful rival to all religious magazines of its class. The contents of the present number are varied and all admirable.

The *Alexandra* keeps up its unparalleled claim on earnest women, and on the drawing-room talk of intelligent middle-class families.

*Routledge's Boy's Magazine* is about as perfect a thing for its boy-audience as has ever been produced; and in variety, amusement, instructiveness, and illustration, is deserving of unreserved commendation.

The *Eclectic* has interesting articles on "Michael Angelo," "Haunted London," and certain Dublin lectures on Literature and Art. But its review of Mr. Vine Hall's *Autobiography*, under the heading "Beside himself for God" is most attractive to us,—although we have expressed an opinion of the work which differs considerably in some respects from that entertained by the editor.

The *Musical Monthly* has a good song—that is, as to the music—by Gounod; but Mr. Ferney's words, although said to have been sung by Titiens, could not seem to us other than very poor, even from such glorious lips.

#### MR. ROSSETTI'S DANTE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR,—Your review of my translation of Dante's "Inferno" intimates surprise at my not having, in my preface, referred to Wright's translation along with some others which I have referred to, and says that this "silent contempt" is undeserved. As it would ill become me to contemn any of my precursors in an arduous task, I beg to be allowed a word of explanation.

You say that Mr. Wright has preserved "the somewhat artificial terza rima of the original"; and again that "Mr. Wright has given us in addition the peculiar rhyme of the original." Allow me to inform you that this is an entire delusion. The simplest confrontation of the Italian and the English will show you that Dante's rhymes are *triple* (as implied in the very name *terza rima*), while Wright's are merely *double*. Whatever is "peculiar" or peculiarly difficult in the original rhyming has thus been avoided by Mr. Wright; no doubt with fair enough reason, as I, who have shirked the rhyming altogether, ought to be the last to dispute.

This is the reason why I did not name Mr. Wright along with the four translators specified in my preface. My purport was to take the four completest, and (to my judgment) best versions yet produced upon four several principles of translation, and to explain why I had ventured to add another of my own to the four. Mr. Wright's version—whatever its merits—is, as a specimen of rhymed translation, less complete than Mr. Cayley's, which really does reproduce the original *terza rima*. On that ground, while I named Mr. Cayley and some other *terza rima* translators, I did not name Mr. Wright.

Your obedient servant,

W. M. ROSSETTI.

166, Albany-street, N.W., 9th April, 1865.

NOTE BY THE REVIEWER.—We gladly admit any explanation or comment of so accomplished a Dantean as Mr. Rossetti. As for the *terza rima*, we can only say that Mr. Wright's adaptation of that metre is at all events a close approximation to the Italian. To show that we are not alone in our opinion, we transcribe the following sentences from an able critique of Mr. Wright's translation of the *Inferno*, which appeared in the *Edinburgh Review* so far back as July, 1833:—"Mr. Wright's superiority over his predecessors is greatly founded upon the fact of his having endeavoured to transfer the precise versification of his author together with the thoughts. . . . Mr. Wright has very luckily solved the problem of the English *terza rima*."—ED. R., No. 216, pp. 427, 430.

The copyright for England of Meyerbeer's posthumous opera, "L'Africaine," has been purchased by Messrs. Chappell and Boosey for 4,000*l.*

#### Miscellaneous.

THE OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT-RACE came off on Saturday. The course was from Putney to Mortlake. Thousands of persons had gathered to witness the contest. Cambridge took the lead at starting, and kept it for more than two miles. Gradually, however, Oxford crept up to and passed them, and finished the winners by three lengths. The day was beautifully fine. This is the fifth year in succession that Oxford has won in these contests.

THE EDMUNDS SCANDAL.—The report of the select committee of Peers on the Edmunds scandal, which has been drawn up by Lord Chelmsford, has been postponed till after the holidays, in consequence, we believe, of the absence of some of the lords who had gone out of town. But the tenor of the report is generally believed to be such as to divide the weight of censure almost exclusively between Mr. William Brougham and Mr. Edwards. Lord Brougham is said to be exculpated from any personal knowledge of the jobbing transactions of his two brothers, and the only blame attaching to the Lord Chancellor is involved in the undue leniency shown to Mr. Edmunds, an imputation which he shares with several other noble lords, who did not wish to press too harshly on a fallen man.—*Record*.

THE IRON TRADE.—Although the ironworkers of North Staffordshire are still out on strike, the ironmasters of South Staffordshire have withdrawn the lock-out by which they met the presumed designs of their men. But the men of the South, after loudly complaining of this lock-out, have now refused to avail themselves of its termination, and are threatening to strike on their own account, unless they are released from the necessity of striking hereafter. They take no objection, for the moment, to the current rate of wages, but they now declare that they will be content with nothing less than a Court of Arbitration, the decrees of which shall be binding, in cases of dispute, on masters and men alike, and thus prevent the latter from striking, and the former from locking-out. In default of this understanding, they express themselves prepared to strike once more in order to render striking a thing of the past. The Wolverhampton ironmasters decline to meet the men. Being members of the Ironmasters' Association, they cannot act alone. The Scotch ironmasters have declined to accede to the proposal of the workmen to submit the question of wages to arbitration. The reduction of wages proposed by the employers will therefore take immediate effect, unless the men strike in resistance.

#### Gleanings.

At a recent Parisian *bal costumé* a lady appeared in the costume of a heathen goddess!—*Queen*.

The shortness of life is very often owing to the irregularities of the liver.

Cases of insanity are said to be becoming unusually frequent in Paris.

The West London Industrial Exhibition is to open May 1st, in the Floral Hall, Covent-garden.

A prisoner in Newgate has committed suicide by hanging himself.

"I mean to abandon my habits of life," said a dissipated gentleman. "Are you sure, sir, that they are not abandoned enough already?"

A discovery of what appears to be an extensive and exceedingly rich vein of nickel has just been made on the Duke of Argyll's property near Inverary.

One of the celebrities of song in times not long gone by, Madame Pasta, who "created" nearly all the parts in Bellini's operas, died a few days since at her villa on the Lake of Como.

Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., have in the press a new work by Mr. Ruskin, called "King's Treasures and Queen's Gardens," also "The Inferno of Dante," translated in the metre of the original, by the Rev. James Ford.

A banker of Paris entered his strong box, and thoughtlessly closed the door after him. His head clerk, who had the key, was in the country, and it was not until his return at noon on the following day that the entombed banker could be released.

An editor in the Far West has bought a racehorse, for which he paid 2,000 dollars. On being asked what an editor could do with a racehorse, he replied that "he was to be used in catching runaway subscribers."

WELL DISSEMBLED.—A country clergyman was greatly astonished one day by the jollity of the mourners at the funeral breakfast, and was gravely told in explanation, "Bless you, sir, they're not laughing; they're only dissembling their grief."

The *Hertfordshire Express* says that the late banker, Sir John Dean Paul, is now residing at Gustardwood, Wheathampstead, about eight miles from St. Albans, and has commenced the business of a wine and spirit merchant.

The *Edinburgh Daily Review* tells a story of the loss and recovery of a 20*l.* note at Linlithgow. Some one remembered that he had seen a dog frisking about with a piece of discoloured paper in its mouth. An enema was administered to the animal, and, strange to say, the note was recovered.

A new china egg-cup has been introduced into France. The cup is half a hollow sphere resting on a thin square tablet, which is supported by caryatides representing Julius Caesar, Charlemagne, and Napoleon I. and III. When the egg is in the cup the figures appear to be supporting a globe. By design or accident Napoleon III. appears weak, and as if his fall were imminent.

THE RETORT COURTOIS.—The *Illustrated Times* gives currency to a curious story in connection with

the Lords' investigation into the Edmunds case. The Lord Chancellor was under examination, and was answering the questions in very low tones—so low as to be inaudible to some of the noble Lords and others present; whereupon a member of the Lower House, who had got in surreptitiously, had the impudence to call out, "Speak out, my Lord!" This nettled the irritable Lord; and turning round, he said, in his usual mellifluous voice, "The honourable member has such long ears, that I should have thought that he could hear every word."

THE PREMIER.—Other Ministers, when nothing connected with their department is on, fly away to their family dinner; but Lord Palmerston never moves, except just for half-an-hour, about eight or nine o'clock, to get a cup of tea. He dines at home at three; about half-past four or a quarter to five he enters the House, and there he keeps watch and ward, "fixed as a sentinel," though perhaps not at all times "all eye, all ear," till the House rises, and he walks home. "Walks home?" Yes; walks home all the way to Cambridge House, Piccadilly—a good mile and a half. Whether it be hot or cold, wet or dry, it is difficult, we are told, to induce him to ride. A cold bath in the morning, a gallop after breakfast, meals slight and few, and a walk home—these are the means which the noble lord adopts to keep himself up to his work.—*Illustrated Times*.

#### Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

##### BIRTHS.

JONES.—April 4, the wife of the Rev. T. Slade Jones, of Heywood, Lancashire, of a son.

CURWEN.—April 6, at Lower Clapton, Mrs. Thomas T. Curwen, of a son.

HILL.—April 7, at Shirley College, Southampton, the wife of the Rev. John Hill, M.A., of a daughter.

##### MARRIAGES.

JEREMY—EVANS.—March 28, at the Abbey Chapel, Tavistock, by the Rev. D. Griffith, Walter D. Jeremy, Esq., of Lincoln's-inn, London, barrister-at-law, to Grace Caroline, fourth surviving daughter of the late Rev. Richard Evans, of Swansea.

HEATH—BUNN.—March 29, at the Baptist Chapel, Cheddar, by the Rev. Thomas Davies, Mr. Lot Heath, to Miss Jane Bunn, both of Clewer, in the parish of Wedmore.

SADDINGTON—KNIGHT.—March 30, at Froxfield, Wilts, by the Rev. T. P. Atwood, Samuel, second son of Samuel Saddington, Esq., of Arundel-square, Barnsley, to Dorothea, eldest daughter of Henry Knight, Esq., formerly of Heading. No cards.

WHITEHEAD—GODFREY.—March 30, at the Independent Chapel, Glastonbury, by the Rev. J. Lambert, Mr. Charles Whitehead, to Miss Mary Ann Godfrey, both of Glastonbury.

BLINSTONE—WOLFENDALE.—April 2, in St. Paul's Independent Chapel, Wigan, by the Rev. William Hoof, Mr. William Blinstone, of Ashton, to Miss E. Wolfendale, of Wigan.

FRICKER—YANDELL.—April 3, at the Countership Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. R. P. Macmaster, Mr. Chas. Fricker, of Victoria House, Marlborough-hill, late of Monkton Deverill, to Harriet Yandell, of Bristol.

SMITH—CARTER.—April 3, at Hallfield Chapel, Manningham-lane, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Makepeace, Mr. Thos. Smith, of Bradford, to Miss Betsy Carter, of Manningham.

COURTAULD—SHARPE.—April 4, at Unity Church, Islington, by the Rev. Thomas Madge, Sydney, youngest son of the late George Courtauld, Esq., of Bocking, Essex, to Sarah Lucy, second daughter of William Sharpe, Esq., of Highbury-terrace.

BUTLIN—BARNES.—April 4, at London-road Chapel, Leicestershire, by the Rev. R. W. McAll, Mr. John Peach Butlin, to Miss Martha Barnes.

TILY—COLEMAN.—April 4, at the Independent Chapel, Haleworth, Suffolk, by the father of the bride, James, second son of James Tily, Esq., of Farnham, Surrey, to Sarah Letitia, eldest daughter of the Rev. H. Coleman.

MARCH—BOOTH.—April 5, at Union-street Chapel, Rochdale, by the Rev. Peter McOwan, the Rev. Septimus March, B.A., of Southampton, to Emily, second daughter of James Booth, Esq., Castlemere, Rochdale. No cards.

PEARSON—JOWETT.—April 5, at Hallfield Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. Makepeace, Mr. Alfred Major Pearson, to Miss Nancy Ellen Jowett, both of Bradford.

WHITAKER—FOWLER.—April 5, at the Congregational Chapel, Morecambe, by the Rev. T. Davies, Mr. William Whitaker, of Quernmore, to Mary Ann Fowler, of Caton.

HOPE—THOMAS.—April 5, at the Chorlton-road Congregational Church, Manchester, by the Rev. J. A. Macfaylen, John, eldest son of Richard Hope, Esq., to Mary Ann, youngest daughter of John Thomas, Esq., both of Manchester.

CARR—WRIGHT.—April 5, at Abney Chapel, Stoke Newington, by the Rev. John Jefferson, Thomas Carr, Esq., of Park-road, to Hannah, younger daughter of the late Matthew Wright, Esq., of Albion road.

HIRST—THOMSON.—April 6, at Ramsden-street Chapel, Huddersfield, by the Rev. R. Skinner, Charles, third surviving son of Charles Hirst, Esq., Brunswick-place, to Mary, eldest daughter of William Thomson, Esq., New House, Huddersfield.

JONES—JONES.—April 8, at the Independent Chapel, Pendleton, by the Rev. S. St. N. Dobson, Mr. John Jones, to Hannah Crompton, youngest daughter of Mr. Thomas Jones, Pendleton.

##### DEATHS.

UPTON.—March 25, the Rev. W. Upton, for nearly forty-four years pastor of the Baptist church, St. Albans, Herts, in the sixty ninth year of his age.

ASQUITH.—March 31, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, in her fifth year, Lillian Josephine, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Joseph D. Asquith, of Morley.

THOMAS.—April 2, at Torquay, Barrington, the second son of the Rev. F. Fox Thomas, aged five years.

CLARKE.—April 2, at Cardiff, after a very short illness, Mrs. Clarke, the beloved mother of the Rev. R. P. Clarke, of Uxbridge, aged seventy-two years. Her end was peace.

COLLARD.—April 7, at Mere, Wilts, Charlotte, widow of the late William Collard, Esq., formerly of Lynmouth, North Devon.

#### Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

City, Tuesday Evening.

The bright spring weather, together with plentiful supplies of money and an anticipation of a further reduction in the rate of discount, have combined to give a great impetus to the stock markets. Consols are 91*1/2* to 1*1/2* for money, and 91*1/2* to 1*1/2* for the 9th inst.

In railway and miscellaneous shares the improvements

quoted are of North Western  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Bristol and Exeter and Great Western, each  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Metropolitan,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and Great Northern A Stock, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Midland, South Eastern, and North Eastern Berwick, each 1.

Bank and Miscellaneous shares continue in fair request. European have improved to 13, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; London and Brazilian to 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 48; Alliance Bank to 34; City of Milan Improvement to 113, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and Peninsular and Oriental Steam to 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 84. Saloon Steam-packet Company's shares are quoted  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1 prem.; South Africa Land, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  prem.; and Rio de Janeiro Gas, 1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  prem.

#### BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, April 5.

#### ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued ..	£29,051,650	Government Debt £11,015,100
Other Securities ..	3,634,900	
Gold & Bullion 14,401,650		
	£29,051,650	£29,051,650

#### RANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital £14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£11,110,838
Less ..	3,132,231	
Public Deposits ..	9,331,615	21,515,411
Other Deposits ..	14,172,353	8,149,045
Seven Day and other ..	449,808	853,783
	£41,629,097	£41,629,097

April 6, 1865.

W. MILLER, Chief Cashier.

**HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.**—Diseases of the most formidable and chronic character have been cured by Holloway's remedies. Ulcerations, which have proved themselves incurable by any other known means, have healed kindly under the purifying and regenerating influence of this excellent ointment. Sprains, erysipelas, stiff joints, contracted muscles, glandular swellings can be most safely and effectively treated by Holloway's ointment and pills, which can do no harm under any circumstances. Neither of these medicaments have anything deleterious in their composition, but are essentially purifying and strengthening in their nature. The combined power of these noble remedies enables them successfully to cope with most descriptions of injuries, and to cure, or at least relieve, most varieties of ulcers.

#### Markets.

##### COTTON EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, April 10.

There was a fair show of English wheat this morning, but with the change in the weather, which is to-day quite summer, the trade was very inanimate. Factors endeavoured to maintain the currency of last Monday, but without success, and ultimately were compelled to submit to a decline of 2s. per qr. from the rates of that day. Foreign wheat has relapsed into its former state of inactivity, and lower prices must be taken to-day where sales are pressed. Barley, beans, and peas are firm, and fully support the quotations of last Monday. Of oats, we have very small arrivals from abroad. Those offering ex-granary are held firmly, and in the absence of any ship samples are rather dearer than on this day week.

#### CURRENT PRICES.

WHEAT—	Per qr.	Per qr.
Essex and Kent, red, 1863 ..	36 to 40	34 to 36
Ditto 1864 ..	37 4	36 39
White, 1863 ..	39 40	34 38
," 1864 ..	40 48	35 38
Foreign red ..	39 42	36 37
," white ..	40 49	36 37
<b>BARLEY—</b>		
English malting ..	27 33	26 28
Chevalier ..	32 34	
Distilling ..	25 28	
Foreign ..	20 20	
<b>MAIZE—</b>		
Pale ..	54 61	
Chevalier ..	60 62	
Brown ..	47 50	
<b>BEANS—</b>		
Ticks ..	35 38	
Harrow ..	37 39	
Small ..	40 43	
Egyptian ..	31 35	
<b>BREAD.—</b> The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 6d to 7d; household ditto, 5d to 6d.		
<b>METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET.</b>		

MONDAY, April 10.—The total imports of foreign stock into London, last week, amounted to 7,234 head. In the corresponding week in 1864, we received 4,315; in 1863, 3,403; in 1862, 2,771; in 1861, 2,615; in 1860, 3,825; and in 1859, 3,021 head. There was a large supply of foreign stock on offer here to-day, in but middling condition. The show of sheep was of poor quality, but that of calves and pigs was tolerably good. Sales progressed slowly at depressed currencies. With home-fed beasts we were but scantily supplied, and the condition of most breeds was very middling. The arrivals from Scotland were good, but a portion of the stock was suffering from the foot-and-mouth disease. The beef trade was in a sluggish state, at a decline in the quotations, compared with Monday last, of 2d. per siba. The rates for Scots and crosses were 4s. 6d. to 4s. 10d., in some few instances 5s. per siba. The arrivals from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire amounted to 1,500 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England, 500 various breeds; from Scotland, 370 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 90 oxen and heifers. The show of sheep was moderate. Most English breeds came to hand in good condition. The demand for them was somewhat heavy, at 2d. per siba, less money. Prime downs and half-downs, in the wool, mostly sold at 6s. 6d., whilst the top quotations for shorn sheep was 5s. 4d. per siba. Lambs were in fair supply, and sold steadily, at from 6s. to 7s. per siba. The arrivals from the Isle of Wight consisted of 600 head. A few very prime lambs realized 8s. per siba. We had a dull sale for calves at 2d. per siba, beneath last quotations. Prices ranged from 4s. 2d. to 5s. 4d. per siba. In Pig, very little was doing at about stationary prices.

#### Per siba, to sink the offal.

s. d. s. d.	s. d. s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts, 3 4 to 3 8	Prime Southdown 6 4 to 6 6
Second quality ..	2 2
Prime large oxen 4 4 4 6	Lambs .. 6 4 7 8
Prime Scots, &c. 4 3 4 10	Lge. coarse calves 4 2 4 10
Coarse inf. sheep 4 4 5 0	Prime small .. 5 0 5 4
Second quality 5 2 5 8	Large hogs .. 3 4 4 0
Pr coarse woolled 5 10 6 2	Neatfam. porkers. 4 2 4 8
Suckling calves, 19s. to 21s.; and quarter-old store pigs, 20s. to 25s. each	

**NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL**, Monday, April 10. These markets continue to be moderately supplied with town and country-killed meat. For all descriptions the trade is heavy, at our quotations.

Per siba, by the carcass.			
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef ..	0 to 3 4	Small pork ..	4 6 to 4 10
Middling ditto ..	3 6 3 10	Inf. mutton ..	3 8 4 0
Prime large do ..	4 0 4 2	Middling ditto ..	4 2 4 4
Do. small do ..	4 4 4 6	Prime ditto ..	4 6 4 8
Large pork ..	3 4 4 4	Veal ..	3 10 4 8

#### PRODUCE MARKET, TUESDAY, April 11.

TEA—Business has been moderately active, and prices have remained without any change of importance.

SUGAR—The market has remained dull, although prices show little variation. In the refined market there is no material alteration to report.

COFFEE—The demand for colonial descriptions has been rather dull, and owing to the late large arrivals prices have in several instances shown a downward movement.

RICE—A moderate amount of business has been done in fair and medium qualities, at about late quotations.

**PROVISIONS**, Monday, April 10.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 215 firkins butter, and 2,217 bales bacon, and from foreign ports, 14,691 casks of butter, and 2,530 bales and 479 boxes of bacon. Scarcely any Irish butter arrived to market; some Corks expected this week. Foreign generally declined about 2s., with the exception of best Dutch, which brought 11s. to 12s. The bacon market was very firm, best Waterford were freely made at 6s. to 6s. on board. The shippers now requiring a further advance, the dealers hold back from purchasing.

**POTATOES**.—**BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELD**, Monday, April 10.—These markets are moderately supplied with potatoes. Good and prime qualities move off steadily at full quotations; otherwise, the trade is quiet. The import into London last week amounted to 30 tons from Caen, 212 tons from Rouen, 41 tons from Rotterdam, and 32 boxes from Lisbon.

**SEEDS**, Monday, April 10.—The favourable change in the weather of the past few days has given more activity to the seed trade. Red seed has met an improved demand, and the small stock of foreign seed finds buyers at an advance of 2s. to 3s. per qr. on the values of last Monday. White seed meets more demand, and finds buyers without further reduction. Trefoils meet more inquiry and are firmer in value than last week.

**WOOL**, Monday, April 10.—For all kinds of home-grown wool the demand is heavy, and to force sales, lower rates must be submitted to, although the supply on offer is very moderate. For export next to nothing is doing.

**FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c.**—**LONDON**, Saturday, April 8.—A very moderate business is passing in flax, at about stationary prices. Hemp moves off slow, and the quotations remain unaltered. Jute at the public sales has sold heavily, and the market privately is quiet on rather easier terms. Coir goods move off slowly at late rates.

**OLEO**, Monday, April 10.—Linseed oil is dull at 3s. 6d. per cwt. on the spot. Rape is steady, at 4s. 6d. for foreign refined, and 4s. 6d. for brown. Cocanut is rather cheaper. Other oils are a slow sale. French spirits of turpentine are selling at 6s. to 6s. 6d. per cwt. American refined petroleum 2s. 6d. per gallon.

**TALLOW**, Monday, April 10.—The tallow trade is dull to-day, and a further decline has taken place in prices. P.Y.C. is quoted at 39s. 3d. per cwt. on the spot, and 40s. 9d. to 41s. for October to December delivery. Town tallow commands 4s. net cash. Rough fat is selling at 2s. 6d. per gallon.

**COALS**, Monday, April 10.—A reduction on last day's rates, and a heavy market. Haweill, 19s. 6d.; Caradoc 18s. 3d.; New Belmont, 17s.; Wharncliffe, 17s. 3d.; Tunstall, 17s. 3d.; Whatebridge, 16s. 6d.; Holywell, 16s.; Cowper 16s. 6d.; Hartley 16s. 9d. Fresh ships 7s. left from last day, 17s. total, 92; 60 at sea.

**CHICORY**, Monday, April 10.—A reduction on last day's rates, and a heavy market. Haweill, 19s. 6d.; Caradoc 18s. 3d.; New Belmont, 17s.; Wharncliffe, 17s. 3d.; Tunstall, 17s. 3d.; Whatebridge, 16s. 6d.; Holywell, 16s.; Cowper 16s. 6d.; Hartley 16s. 9d. Fresh ships 7s. left from last day, 17s. total, 92; 60 at sea.

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## ROYAL POLYTECHNIC.

Patron, H.R.H. the Prince of WALES.

Last week of the interesting Ghost Scene, "The Indian Widow's Suite; or, the Hindoo Maiden's Dream" (J. H. Pepper and Henry Diroka, joint inventors), also of Mr. Coote's Musical and Humorous Entertainment of Baron Munchausen.—During Passion Week (by desire) Professor Pepper will repeat his course of Three Lectures on Elementary Astronomy, viz.:—on Wednesday, at 2:30, and on Thursday and Saturday, at 2:30 and 7:30. N.B.—The collection of Models of Inventions for Saving Life in Railways is now open.

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## DEANE AND CO. (The Monument), LONDON BRIDGE.

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N.B.—If found to fail, the money will be returned for any unused portion.

**H**AIR DYE! HAIR DYE! HAIR DYE! GILLINGWATER'S ATRAPILATORY is the best Hair Dye in England. Grey, red, or rusty hair dyed instantly to a beautiful and natural brown or black without the least injury to hair or skin, and the ill effects of bad dyes remedied. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers of repute, and by the Proprietor, W. Gillingwater, 333 (late 96), Goswell-road. Sent free to any railway station in the kingdom, in cases, 3s. 6d., 5s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each. Beware of Counterfeits.

**H**AIR DESTROYER for removing superfluous hair on the face, neck, and arms. This root disfigurement, if female beauty is effectually removed by this article, which is easily applied, and certain in effect. In Boxes, with directions for use, 3s. 6d. each. Sent free to any railway station, and may be had of Perfumers and Chemists, and of the proprietor, W. Gillingwater, 333 (late 96), Goswell-road. Beware of Counterfeits.

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**A** SAFE and CERTAIN CURE for that disfiguring, distressing, and ultimately dangerous disease, Thick Neck; and all Glandular Swellings. Send a stamped directed envelope to Mr. S. Drakeford, Desborough, Market-Harborough, and receive testimonials from ministers and others.

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